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# Worker fatally injured in fall from scaffold

September 1, 2021

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## **The contents of this report**

This document reports the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) investigation of a fatal incident that occurred in September 2021. It begins with a short summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in greater detail.

## **Incident summary**

On September 1, 2021, at approximately 6:10 p.m., a worker was applying stucco coating to a front porch pillar when the scaffold they were using shifted, causing the worker to fall. The worker struck their head against a steel dumpster and sustained a fatal injury.

## **Background information**

### **Employer**

JARS Construction Ltd. (JCL) was a stucco contractor engaged by Platinum Heritage Construction Corp. to complete work on a single-family home located at 104 Cheyenne Crescent northwest (NW), Calgary, Alberta.

### **Contractor**

Platinum Heritage Construction Corp. (PHCC) was an active Alberta company, specializing in providing construction services for individuals and businesses in Calgary and the surrounding areas. On or about September 1, 2021, PHCC contracted JCL to complete stuccowork at the work site.

### **Worker**

The deceased worker (Worker) was the owner and sole shareholder of JCL. The Worker was experienced in completing stuccowork and installation.

## Work site, equipment and materials

### Work site

The work site was a single-family detached home located in the Charleswood community of Calgary, Alberta. The front of the home faced east, and was located at or near a standard residential roadway (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The front of 104 Cheyenne Crescent NW, Calgary, Alberta.  
A. The incident scaffold, work area and incident location

The incident occurred at or near the front entrance to the home (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The incident location, east side of the home.

- A. The location of the Worker pre-incident
- B. The dumpster at or near the location where the Worker struck their head
- C. A scaffold leg that shifted near the pillar where the Worker was working

## **Sequence of events**

On or about September 1, 2021, PHCC contracted the services of JCL to complete the application of a stucco product to the exterior of single-family home located at 104 Cheyenne Crescent NW, Calgary, Alberta.

The intended work was in addition to other work completed by PHCC at the work site.

On September 1, 2021, the Worker attended the work site to commence work as directed by PHCC.

Upon commencement of work, the Worker positioned themselves on the top of a section of double pole scaffolding located at or near the north front porch pillar. A steel dumpster was positioned at the rear of the work area (Figures 1 and 2).

Working from a height of 2 metres, the Worker proceeded to apply the stucco product – scratch coat – to the front porch pillar.

At approximately 6:10 p.m., the front footing of the north side section of the scaffold shifted into an open trench measuring 20 centimetres in depth. The Worker lost their balance and fell backward, striking their head on the dumpster.

The Worker sustained a fatal injury.

## **Completion**

A review for enforcement action was completed on November 4, 2021, and it was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This investigation closed on December 7, 2021.

# Signatures

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

December 8, 2021

Lead Investigator

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

December 7, 2021

Manager