

Investigation Report
Worker fatally injured after fall from roof
January 9, 2015

The contents of this report

This document reports Occupational Health and Safety's investigation a fatal incident in January 2015. It begins with a short summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in greater detail.

Incident summary

On January 9, 2015 at approximately 10:00 a.m., three roofers began installation of a roof on a newly built single family home at 18105 76A Street, Edmonton AB. Roofer 1 became entangled in his fall protection system, unclipped his lifeline, slipped and subsequently fell from the second story roof; approximately 6.7 metres to the ground. Roofer 1 received fatal injuries as a result of the fall.

Background information

Hopewell Residential Management LP (Hopewell), was the Prime Contractor for the residential construction project where the incident occurred. Hopewell was the residential community development, multi-family, and single-family construction arm of the Hopewell Group of Companies. The Hopewell Group of Companies consist of five primary operating divisions headquartered in Calgary, Alberta.

B & B Siding and Roofing Ltd. (B & B) was retained by Hopewell Residential to complete the shingles at 18105 76A Street. B & B was also the Employer for all roofers involved in the incident.

All roofers involved in the incident had current Fall Protection End User certification and had been roofing for several years together and were related.

Equipment and materials

Roofer 1 was wearing a fall protection harness, and work boots appropriate for the work being done at the time of the incident.

The house being built by Hopewell Residential was a two story single family home and the roof was approximately 6.7 metres high as shown in Figure 2 below. The roof pitch was approximately 22 %.

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Two sling anchors were installed in the roof, prior to the arrival of Roofer 1 (see photos below). They sling brand was Safety Direct Ltd. and had a breaking strength of 5000 lbs. One anchor was located on the West side of the roof with two life lines affixed to it, and the second was installed on the east side of the roof. The east sling anchor did not have a lifeline attached to it as roofer 1 had unclipped the lifeline to untangle it immediately prior to the incident.



Figure 1 - West sling anchor (A) with two lifelines attached to it. The materials on the right side of the photo included the life line worker one had been using and the extension cord which became tangled. The site had been cleaned up prior to OHS arrival.
East Sling Anchor (B) - anchor worker one had been connected to prior to the incident.



Figure 2- The roof height approx. 6.7 metres.



Figure 3 - The anchor sling is a component intended to couple the personal fall protection system to an anchor. This is the type of anchor installed at the incident location.

Sequence of events

At approximately 10:00 a.m., on January 9, 2015 the B&B crew (3 roofers) arrived onsite and prepared to begin shingling at 18105 76 A Street.

Before they began work, roofer 1 completed a hazard assessment and a fall protection plan for the location. He then climbed a ladder to access the second story roof where he connected the other roofers' lifelines. The roofers then climbed up the ladder and once all roofers were connected they prepared to begin shingling.

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Roofers 2 and 3 were tied off to the same strap anchor on the west side of the residence. Roofer 1 was tied off to the strap anchor on the east side of the residence.

While trying to set up various equipment, roofer 1 detached his lifeline from the east anchor as it had become tangled with an extension cord. Shortly after disconnecting his life line, roofer 1 lost his footing, slid down the roof and fell off the roof edge which was approximately 6.7 meters from the ground.

When roofer 1 began slipping, roofer 2 lunged towards him in an attempt to save him from falling. Roofer 2 was unsuccessful and subsequently both roofers fell off the roof. Roofer 1 fell to the ground and roofer 2 was arrested by his fall protection system and able to self rescue by climbing down a ladder.

At 10:54 a.m., roofer 3 called 911 and then assisted roofer 2 with first aid and CPR on roofer 1 who was unresponsive. Emergency Medical Services arrived and transported roofer 1 to the Royal Alexandra hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Completion

A review for enforcement action was completed on February 25, 2015 and it was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This file was closed on September 8, 2015.

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Signatures

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 14, 2015

Lead Investigator

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 14, 2015

Manager

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 19, 2015

Director

Date