

ADOSH News Release

Industrial Commission of Arizona
Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Date: September 28, 2010
Contact: Darin Perkins, Director
Phone: 602-542-5795

ADOSH CONCERNED ABOUT FALLS THROUGH SKYLIGHTS AND SIMILAR OPENINGS

Phoenix – The Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) is concerned about the number of inspections that are revealing employee exposure to unprotected skylights and similar openings.

Openings in roofs present a fall hazard to employees working in close proximity. When an opening is not effectively covered or guarded, or when employees are not provided with appropriate fall protection equipment, there is a very real danger of an employee falling through the opening and being seriously injured or killed.

Skylights present a particularly dangerous condition because employees have a false sense of security due to the skylight dome which covers the opening. Unfortunately, most skylight domes are not capable of withstanding the impact of a falling employee. This is particularly true for skylight domes that have been exposed to the extreme Arizona summer temperatures.

Under the ADOSH Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe working environment for their employees. Employees that are exposed to skylights, openings through roofs or other fall hazards must be provided with appropriate measures to prevent a fall. Employers who need assistance complying with these and other occupational safety and health requirements can contact the ADOSH consultation sections at 602-542-1769 (Phoenix) or 520-628-5478 (Tucson).

###