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**4 OSHA QuickTakes**  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
Healthier Workers. Safer Workplaces. A Stronger America.

A twice monthly e-news product with information about workplace safety and health.

## **Construction superintendent sentenced for willful disregard of OSHA safety standards following worker's death**

Robert Christopher Kennedy has been sentenced in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to six months of house arrest and three years of probation for willfully endangering workers at a Washington County, Pa., construction site. Kennedy's intentional disregard for OSHA's safety standards contributed to the fatal fall of Carl Beck from a 40-foot pitched roof in August 2009.

Mr. Kennedy was the superintendent for Hospitality Builders, the general contractor on the worksite where the fatality occurred. His guilty plea follows the 2010 sentencing of Beck's employer, Christopher Franc, who was on the roof when the worker fell. Investigators found that immediately after Beck's death, Kennedy told Franc to put fall protection equipment on the roof to mislead OSHA investigators into believing that the gear was in place before the fall.

In 2010, OSHA cited Franc's construction company for 10 per-instance willful citations for failing to protect workers from falls, for a proposed fine of \$539,000.

Fatalities from falls are the number one cause of workplace death in construction. For more information and educational materials on fall protection, visit [OSHA's Fall Protection page](#).

<https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt03162012.html#3>