Case Study – Fall through skylight

A 43-year-old male laborer at a coatings manufacturing company died after falling through an unguarded, 3-foot-square skylight lens to a concrete floor 14 feet below. The victim and a coworker were clearing snow from the flat roof of the building. The victim walked on the roof through deep snow that completely covered the skylights in that area of the roof. He apparently failed to see the snow-covered skylight and stepped onto its lens, which broke under his weight. The victim’s coworker, who was walking toward the opposite side of the roof, looked back toward the location of the victim after hearing a noise coming from that area. He saw the broken skylight lens and called for help. The skylight did not have a protective screen, cover, or guarding around it.