



Case #84

NAME Educational Activities Committee

Case provided by:

Dr. Thomas Blomquist
(Deputy Coroner, Lucas County, OH)



1. This individual was found in a state of advanced decomposition with partial skeletonization near a cell-phone tower. What is the most likely cause of death? (Free text answer!)

Answer...

Blunt force injuries due to fall from height!

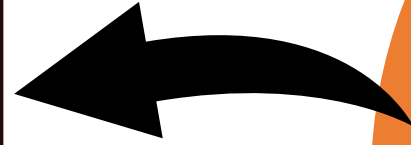
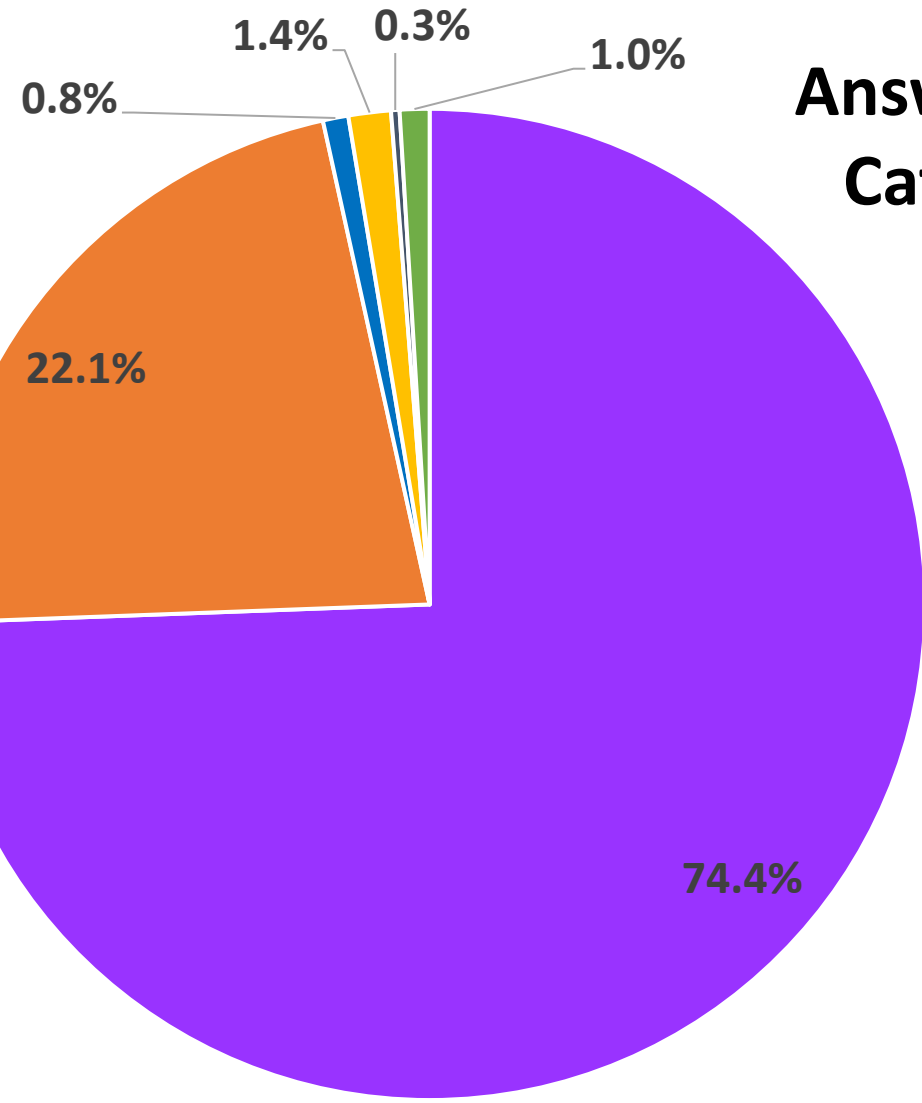
Falls from height with feet-first impact are classically associated with calcaneal and tibial injuries as the smaller area of the impact results in extensive stress focused on the lower legs as energy dissipates. In these instances, the force can then also be vertically transmitted throughout the skeleton, causing additional blunt force injuries and fractures all the way to the skull.

Minimal history was known in this case, other than report of schizophrenia and cancer diagnoses. Despite advanced decomposition, extensive blunt force injuries were identified, many associated with falling/jumping from a height: Subgaleal and epidural hemorrhage, ring fracture of the skull, flail chest, sacroiliac joint fractures, femoral heads protruding through the acetabula (corresponding defects in the back of the pants), bilateral tibia/fibula fractures with tibias protruding through medial aspects of shoes, and crushing injury of the heel bones. Remnants of the aorta had multiple lacerations. The cause of death was determined to be Multiple Blunt Force Injuries in Advanced Decomposition/Skeletonization.

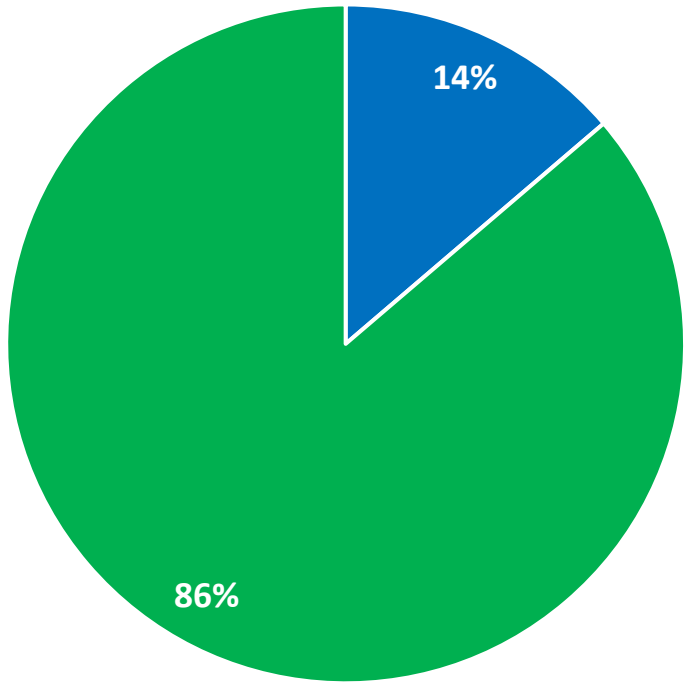
Word Cloud

injuries sustained fall force injuries secondary impact injuries descent
jumping cell-phone tower MBEI followed fall due descent height resulting
Suicide jumping vertical force injuries sustained strike Suicidalgravity
Electrocuted Blunt force trauma injuries due fall Jumper feet landing feet first
death Multiple Blunt force injuries Jump tower high pushed Trauma
Fall high Blunt trauma **Fall height** landing feet cell tower
feet first Suicide **Electrocution** **Fall** due fall height Blunt High-voltage
free fall Jumped fell trauma due fall height onto feet
injuries due descent Fell tower force injuries due Multiple blunt force secondary Precipitation
Feet-first height landing feet Descent height High voltage electrocution
likely injuries descent height Fall height landed Blunt impact injuries Fall height onto
cell-phone tower height jump Electrocution lightning Multiple blunt
fall significant height cellphone tower great height Blunt impact Cause Death

Answers by Category



Electrocutation Subcategory

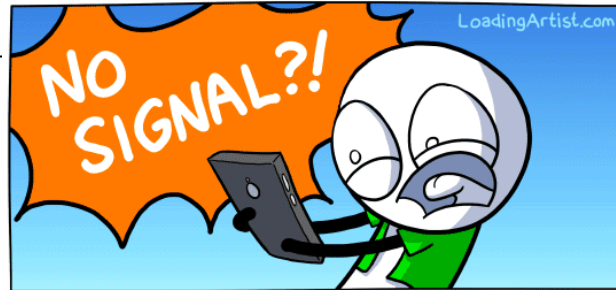


■ Lightning ■ Other

■ BFI/Fall ■ Electrocutation ■ Environmental
■ Other ■ Decomp ■ Manner only

Most memorable “How injury occurred” speculations!

“No bars on cell phone, climbed the tower trying to get closer to signal. Got excited when he got 4 bars at 5G, forgot he was at height and jumped for joy. Fell straight down.”



“Landed on his feet like a cat. Unfortunately, it was a cat that hit the ground a little too fast.”



“Electrocution by lightning after climbing to the top of the tower during a storm with subsequent fall to the bottom (all on security footage).”



“First killed by someone, then broken his bones and then dumped under soil, and the body maybe passed 10 years under soil.”

