



ATLANTIC DIVISION, NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

ACCIDENT ABSTRACT

Accident Type: _____ Crushed by
Injury: Fatality
Type of Work: Masonry
Equipment: Self-Supported Scaffolding

Description of the Accident:

During a self supported scaffold dismantling operation a stack of approximately 20 scaffold 2" X 10" X 16 feet scaffold planks were temporarily loaded on an outrigger bracket scaffold accessory located on the outboard side of the system. The stack of planks overloaded the system causing the scaffold to tip over. The planks, which were located on the third level of the scaffold system landed on top of a mason who was working at the facility finished floor level, approximately 20 feet away.

Direct Cause:

The scaffold outrigger bracket platform was overloaded. No provisions had been made for additional support necessary to offset the overturning moment caused by the scaffold plank loading.

Indirect Cause:

- 1) The employees involved in the dismantling operation had not been adequately trained to recognize the over loading hazard.
- 2) The use of a forklift to lower the planks made it necessary for the employees to find a method for loading the forklift outside the scaffold platform due to the length of the planks.

Lessons Learned:

The outrigger bracket accessory was not used in accordance with manufacturers printed instructions and USACE EM 385-1-1 14.B.05, 22.B.09, and 22.B.11. The accessory is designed for workers and light tools and not for material loading. Because the outrigger platform accessory has the potential to be misused to support material, and the fact that the extended platform makes installation of required fall protection guard rail system more difficult on the outboard side of the scaffold system their use should be terminated.

Individuals designated as competent persons and involved in erection or dismantling of scaffold systems shall have documented training in accordance with USACE EM 385-1-1 and 29 CFR 1926.454.

