



Abstract of an Accident

92-14

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall
INJURY: Fatality
TYPE OF WORK: Removing bolt fasteners holding roof panels
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Safety belt but not connected to lifeline
Net installed 10 feet below ceiling

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

During removal of glass panels worker fell 40 feet through the skylight glass, either missing the net completely or bouncing off. He apparently had been sitting on the glass panel. The worker was wearing a safety belt but a lifeline was not installed on the roof. Work had been previously stopped on several occasions by the Construction Representative (including the day before) due to employees not belting off while working on the roof. The net was installed to catch debris only and was not erected IAW EM 385-1-1 para 07.D. for protection of personnel.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Worker was not provided with a lifeline to attach his safety belt to
- Safety net was not erected IAW EM 385-1-1 for personnel protection
- Worker placed his weight on the skylight glass which is not designed to support a load

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- The contractors safety plan was not site specific and failed to detail fall protection requirements
- Workers were told to wear safety belts but were not trained on proper installation or use of fall protection systems
- Work was allowed to recommence after stoppage of the job prior to installation of approved required fall protection systems
- Corrective action to eliminate repeated serious safety violations was less than adequate

LESSONS LEARNED:

- A generic written safety program plan is inadequate for high hazard work such as roofing
- Safety nets must be erected IAW EM 385-1-1 and/or 29 CFR 1926 by qualified personnel only
- Approved fall protection systems include properly installed lifelines and/or attachment points
- Personnel must receive training in the installation and use of fall protection systems

Your **SAFETY** contact is...