



Abstract of an Accident

92-18

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall From Three-Story Superstructure
INJURY: Fatality
TYPE OF WORK: Construction of Steel Superstructure for Warehouse
EQUIPMENT: Welding Trusses at 30 Feet
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Hard Hats, Leathers, Eye and Ear Protection, Gloves, Boots, Flame Retardant Coveralls, and Lifelines

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Two workers were welding trusses which had been placed onto beams. As each portion was finished, employee moved to a new position to continue welding. One worker unbuckled his lifeline in preparation for a new move and attempted to "jump" over a three-foot opening. His landing caused movement of the stacked metal and he fell 30 feet to the ground. The impact of his jump caused the loose materials (metal) throughout the unfinished structure to shift, thereby causing additional steel beams and a co-worker to fall as well. Fortunately the co-worker was still attached to his lifeline, which operated properly, he suffered only minor injuries.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Individual moving at height on unstable structure without lifeline connected
- Improper stacking of steel and roof decking
- Individual attempted to jump from one structure to another where permanent attachments had not been made, causing movement, slippage, and stacked material to fall

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- Contractors approved safety plan was not followed and/or enforced
- Trusses loaded before being secured
- Violation of Corps of Engineers Safety Manual per paragraph 34.0.05
- Poor safety attitude, enforcement, and concern

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Accident could have been fatal to both workers
- A Site Specific Safety Plan is necessary for high hazard work and must be fully implemented
- Construction should be in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- Personnel must receive training in the installation and use of fall protection systems

Your **SAFETY** contact is...