

# **Abstract of an Accident**

FY95-4

<b>ACCIDENT TYPE:</b>	<b>Fall from Elevation</b>
<b>INJURY:</b>	<b>T-12 Vertebra to Back Injured</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT:</b>	<b>Safety Shoes, Safety Observer, Hard Hat, Gloves</b>

## **DISCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT**

A temporary laborer was injured when he fell 14 feet through a roof onto a concrete floor. He was working on the job site of a repair/alteration contract that included repair of a flat roof of a building. He was assigned duties to clean up scrap material from the roof area and place it in a dumpster. As part of the job, workers removed the old roofing while standing on a secure area made of 2" x 12" boards. Old roofing material was removed the length of the building to a width of about four feet, then new corrugated metal roofing was installed to cover the hole left by the removal process. Roof edge designation lines were in place and a safety monitor (contract project manager) was on the roof stationed beside the laborer. Initially the laborer was clearing only the roof area where the new corrugated metal roof was to be installed. He later crossed over to clean the small portion of the roof left to be removed, and continued picking up roofing debris. While standing on the 2" x 12" boards, he took one foot off the boards and placed it on the roof section being removed to give himself additional leverage to reach a piece of debris. He then fell through the edge of the roof excavation area. He attempted to stop his fall by grabbing first a metal truss under the roof and then a sprinkler riser. His hands immediately slipped off and he fell approximately 14 feet to the concrete deck below.

## **DIRECT CAUSE**

Employee working near open area without proper training, lifeline (motion-stopping system), or safety net.

## **CONTRIBUTING CAUSE**

Insufficient training. The laborer was picked up that morning from a local temporary labor pool by the contractor to work on the job.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

New, temporary employees should never be used around any hazardous operation without sufficient training and experience. The requirements of the new fall protection standard (29 CFR 1926, Subpart M) must be followed. Check all contractors and construction operations to ensure the new standard is applied as required.

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**YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS....**