

Abstract of an Accident

FY95-6

MISHAP TYPE: Fall From Scaffolding
INJURY: Fatality
TYPE OF WORK: Masonry
EQUIPMENT: Guard Rails, Mid Rails, Toe Boards And Cross Bracing

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAP

A fatality occurred when a mason's tender fell 27 feet from scaffolding to the ground. The mason tender had received a load of mortar at the fourth level scaffold staging area. Prior to receiving the mortar, the guard rails, midrails, toe boards and cross bracings were removed to allow the load to be delivered. No fall protection was worn during this operation. When the mason's tender had completed the mortar load, the lull driver withdrew the load and proceeded to his next assignment. Several minutes later the mason's tender fell to his death. There were no eyewitnesses to the mishap. During emergency response it was noted that the guard rails, midrails, toe boards and cross bracings were all in place. Scaffolding was constructed in accordance with OSHA regulations. Although OSHA standards were met, EM-385-1-1, paragraph 21.C.01.e. which requires fall protection devices, was not enforced during the mortar loading operation and reinstallation of the guardrails and cross bracings.

DIRECT CAUSE

Lack of adequate fall protection.

INDIRECT CAUSE

Employees not adequately trained in the hazards of the job.

LESSONS LEARNED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM-385-1-1) must be complied with. Alternate fall protection must be provided when the guardrails, midrails, and cross bracings are removed to receive material.

Site Safety and Health Plans must be scrutinized more closely to be sure that a hazard analysis is performed for work in elevated areas. Fall protection shall be delineated in the hazard analysis and accepted by the ROICC prior to the start of work (EM-385-1-1, 22.A.03).

Training of contractors' personnel must be monitored more closely to be sure all training is timely and occurs prior to the particular work progressing (EM-385-1-1, 01.B.). Contractors must ensure that employees are physically, medically and emotionally qualified for duties assigned (EM-385-1-1, 01.C.).

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