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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

96-11

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall from Elevation
INJURY: Head Injury (Laceration)
TYPE OF WORK: Welding
EQUIPMENT: Mobile Scaffold (6 feet high)
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Hard Hat/Safety Shoes

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A welder was welding the frames of an electric cart shed from a 6 foot high mobile scaffold. To move the mobile scaffold, in order to weld another portion of the shed, the welder descended the ladder (equipped on the mobile scaffold). While descending, the mobile scaffold moved causing him to fall. As he fell from the ladder, he bumped into his coworker who was standing by the mobile scaffold, then fell onto the ground hitting the back of his head.

DIRECT CAUSE:

Failure to lock casters (wheels) of mobile scaffold prior to use.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- Job hazard analyses was not conducted.
- Rung spacing on the access ladder was in excess of 12 inches.
- The employee did not hold onto a stable object while descending the mobile scaffold.
- Chin straps to the hard hat were not properly fastened.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Ensure job hazard analyses is conducted prior to commencement of the job.
- Ensure casters to mobile scaffolds are locked prior to use.
- Maximum permitted spacing between ladder rungs is 12 inches.
- Ensure chin straps to the hard hat are fastened properly.

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