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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

96-6
(CORRECTED COPY)

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall While Dismantling/Erecting Scaffolding
INJURY: Laceration
TYPE OF WORK: Masonry
EQUIPMENT: Scaffolding

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A laborer fell approximately 10' while dismantling scaffolding. The worker was attempting to remove shoring from the scaffold when the planking came loose from the support and dropped causing the worker to fall.

DIRECT CAUSE:

Improperly erected scaffolding. The worker was not provided with a full work platform properly supported with guard rails or other fall protection systems.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- A competent person was not assigned to supervise the scaffold erection or dismantling operations.
- The contractor did not have in place a fall protection plan to delineate the training, inspection, and requirements for fall protection while doing this phase of the work.
- Activity Hazard Analysis was not performed for the scaffold erection/dismantling work.

LESSONS LEARNED:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR (PART 1926) does not address the fall protection requirements during scaffold erection or dismantling operations. A Final Rule for this issue is being proposed by OSHA that will be provided by the Department of Labor soon. US Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual however does not identify scaffold erection or dismantling as an exception to the fall protection requirements that come into effect when workers reach an elevation above 6 feet. It is important to recognize the differences in these two standards when evaluating contractor fall protection plans. Contracts require that our construction contracts are carried out utilizing the standard that has the most restrictive safety requirements.

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