

Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

98-3

ACCIDENT TYPE: Trip/Fall from Elevation
INJURY: Fatality - Cerebral Contusions and Skull Fractures
TYPE OF WORK: Welding Corrugated Metal Roof Decking
EQUIPMENT: Welding Cable and Stinger
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Hart Hat, Welding Helmet and Welding Gloves Worn. No Personal Fall Protection Equipment

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

An employee fell 38' 10" from a corrugated metal roof to the concrete floor below when he apparently tripped on the uneven roof surface. Personal fall protection equipment was not being worn by the employee while working between the warning line system and the roof deck leading edge (controlled access area).

DIRECT CAUSE

Employee working between the warning line system and the roof decking leading edge without personal fall protection equipment secured to an approved lifeline and anchorage.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES

Training records provided by the employer did not show the employee receiving training in the company's fall protection program. The warning line system was in-place, but the employee was observed working between the warning line system and the roof decking leading edge when he apparently tripped on the corrugated metal roof decking. There was no safety monitor assigned to ensure that unqualified employees are working inside the warning line system. Other employees working on the roof did not warn the employee to work inside the warning system and to use a personal fall protection equipment when working between the warning line system and the roof leading edge. No qualified person was on the roof to ensure that the employees were in compliance with the company's fall protection program.

LESSONS LEARNED

- All employees should receive training in the company's fall protection program.
- The company's qualified person should conduct an inspection of the fall protection system in place to ensure that all potential fall hazards have been identified, and the system is properly installed, maintained, and used.
- The employees should be trained in recognizing the potential fall hazards and ensure that each employee is complying the company's fall protection program.
- Prime contractor has identified two separate fall protection violations. The employer should conduct retraining to ensure that the employees understand and comply with the company's fall protection program.
- Each employee is responsible for complying with the company's fall protection program, wearing prescribed safety equipment, and preventing avoidable accidents.

YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS....