

Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

99-10

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall
INJURY: Broken Arm/Laceration
TYPE OF WORK: Reinforcing Steel

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAP

Three steelworkers were in the process of installing an exterior 4'x8' sheet of plywood form for a concrete wall replacement 20' above grade. Two workers held the plywood sheet in place while the injured employee inserted the wall ties from a position above the plywood sheet. The worker fell as a result of inadequate fall protection equipment.

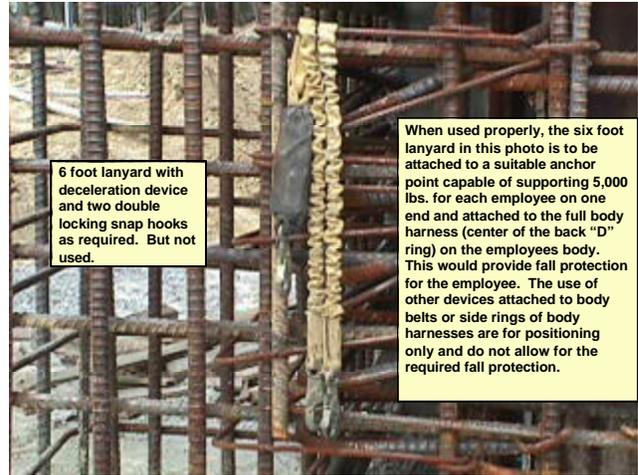
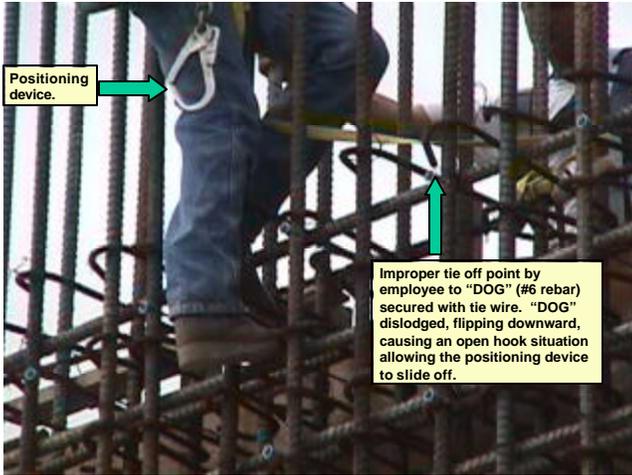
DIRECT CAUSE

- Adequate fall protection equipment was not being worn. The worker was using a positioning device as his means of fall protection and attached it at an inadequate anchor point.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Although standards allow reinforcing steelworkers to use body belts with positioning devices while tying reinforcing steel, it must be used in conjunction with a full body harness attached with a lanyard designed to limit the employee's fall distance to no more than six feet affixed to a suitable anchor point.
- Fall Protection is required for workers whenever they are exposed to falls of six feet or more. In addition, it is required that body belts and harnesses have two lanyards when necessary to insure that a person is tied-off with at least one lanyard at all times. Workers should have been utilizing two lanyards in addition to the positioning device to allow for safe employee movement from one location to another.
- A positioning device is not acceptable as a means of fall protection, additional harnesses and lanyards are needed.





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