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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

99-07

ACCIDENT TYPE: Multiple Injuries: Fracture of one lumbar vertebra (lower back), laceration on back of head, head trauma, fracture of three ribs, puncture of left lung (from fractured ribs), separation of right lung from rib cage

INJURY: Temporary Disability

TYPE OF WORK: Building Maintenance – Applying Liquid Roof Sealer

EQUIPMENT: Fall Protection System (Full Body Harness, Lanyard, and Lifeline)

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAP

A civilian employee working as part of a roofing crew fell approximately 13 feet from the roof of a building to asphalt pavement. While standing on a freshly painted area of roof, the employee disconnected the lanyard of his full body harness from the main lifeline installed along the building ridgeline. Subsequently, he slipped, fell, and slid off the roof to the asphalt pavement below.

DIRECT CAUSE

- Supervisor failed to recognize hazardous situation
- Employee failed to properly use PPE
- Installed fall protection system did not provide 100% protection for workers while on the roof.

INDIRECT CAUSES

- No JHA or SOP for roofers
- Not all roofers had received training in fall protection; training not documented
- No PPE evaluations/assessments for new roofing work center
- Common practice was to **not** remain attached to the fall protection system at all times
- Lifelines and some lanyards were inadequate
- Workers not proficient in inspecting their body harnesses
- Supervisor had not completed Supervisory Safety Training

LESSONS LEARNED

- Horizontal lifelines must be designed, installed used under the direction of a “qualified person”.
- Ensure written standard operating procedures are established and communicated to all employees before job start-up.
- Ensure all procedures and requirements for fall prevention contained in 29CFR Part 1926.502 are integrated into all command operations where fall hazards exist.
- Ensure personal protective equipment evaluations are conducted for operations involving falls from height.
- Ensure supervisors/employees are properly trained and held accountable for safety performance.

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