



Overall accident view for fall which occurred during a repositioning operation to steel joists of lower roof section 3 Feb 99.



Steel erection worker/welder was reattaching joists for rework in this area when he fell approximately 12 feet



Witness summary indicates worker was welding at this location



- **During fall the worker struck the top of this door frame with his lower torso**



- **The worker then fell on this pallet causing a gash to the front head area**

SUMMARY

- The operation at the time of the accident involved the repositioning (demolition) of several joists which were incorrectly installed at the wrong elevation.
- The majority of the steel installed on this facility has been performed utilizing an articulating boom platform (JLG man basket). The rework operation being performed at the time at the accident did not allow JLG access due to the surrounding steel already installed - the process changed for this one time non-routine unplanned process.
- During on site discussions, the steel erection company foreman indicated that the fall protection standard allowed the worker to tie off when at his work area but that the worker may travel to his work area without positive fall protection (being tied off). This misunderstanding, and inability to recognize the fall hazard and 100 % fall protection requirement for his workers, promulgated the decision to stop the steel work at the corrosion control hangar site until an acceptable replacement could be provided by the contractor to meet the requirements. Contractor safety manager, who was on site performing an investigation, has made contact with a local construction safety consultant to provide on site training for employees and remedial action.
- An on site all hands safety stand down was conducted at the site. All the steel workers from the other two sites (different sub contractors) involved in this contract attended.

- Scheduled an on site safety stand down at each of their active contracts.
- The worker involved in the accident is classified as a welder by his employer. Employee has been in the steel erection trade for over ten years but with this company for approximately one. Employee apparently had been involved in a fall accident previously.
- Employee treated for a head laceration, possible fractures in sinus area, chipped tooth, and possible vertebrae injury. He has been conscious and described as lucid throughout the incident. He has complete movement in all his extremities.

Recommendations

- Review site incentives program. Recommend that a monetary or other incentive for each work crew or worker be implemented immediately. This process involves the selection of a crew for the reward based on Zero lost time accidents or excellence in safety performance over a given time period. This process assures that the importance of safety in a positive reinforced consequence is communicated to the workers on the site.
- Assure activity hazard analysis (AHA) are provided and that the AHA is reviewed during the preparatory phase of inspection before work on each phase is started. The contractor must document a QC check to assure the competencies of the site workers, particularly the sub contractor foreman responsible for directing and controlling the work force. The finding that the on site foreman (14 years experience) was unable to recognize the fall hazard for his workers is a root problem which should be corrected immediately.
- Contractor must incorporate a more aggressive indoctrination program for contractor employees including sub contractor employees. The existing process for new employees arriving at the site is not adequately applied to sub contractor employees. If other than prime indoctrination processes are to be used they must be documented and amended to the project safety plan.