

Fatality Narrative

Scaffolding Erector Falls from Scaffolding*

Industry: Stucco plastering

Occupation: Scaffolding erector

Task: Erecting scaffolding system

Type of Incident: Fall from scaffolding

Release Date: April 8, 2004

Case No.: 03WA048

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On August 16, 2003, a worker was erecting a scaffolding system to be used to apply a stucco finish on a new building when he fell 23 feet from the scaffolding to the ground. The 57-year-old scaffolding erector was working for a plastering contractor who was preparing to apply stucco plastering to a chapel that was under construction. He was working from the fourth level of scaffolding and was securing a safety railing when he fell, striking a railing on the third level and landing on the ground 23 feet below. He received multiple injuries. He died 21 days later. He had been a scaffolding erector for about 37 years.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- ! Scaffolds must be erected, moved or dismantled under the direct supervision of a competent person.
- ! The maximum feasible fall protection system must be used during erection and dismantling of scaffolds, as determined by a competent person.
- ! The competent person is responsible to ensure that only trained and experienced workers erect, remove, alter, or dismantle scaffolding.
- ! Each employee working on or from a scaffold needs to be protected from falling by some means such as guardrails or personal fall restraint or fall prevention systems.
- ! An employer must ensure that fall restraint, fall arrest systems, or positioning devices are used when employees are exposed to fall hazards, such as when guardrails are in the process of being installed or are not in place.
- An employer should develop and implement a written fall protection plan whenever employees are exposed to fall hazards.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 46th work-related fatality in Washington State during the year 2003 and was the 3rd of 4 fatal falls from scaffolding for the year.

This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees in a timely manner of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Programs at the WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/sharp/face>.