

Fatality Narrative

Construction Supervisor Falls from Scaffold While Pouring Concrete into Form^{*}

Industry: Construction
Occupation: Supervisor
Task: Pouring concrete into form wall
Type of Incident: Fall

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On February 10, 2003, a construction supervisor at a new single-family residential construction site was killed during a concrete pour when he fell 9'7" from a scaffold. The 64-year-old victim was standing on a 7-½ inch wide scaffold plank guiding a whip hose that was pouring concrete from a concrete pumper into plywood form walls. The worker fell backwards about 9'7" to the ground below where his head struck a rock. He died at the site.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- ! Scaffolds must be designed by a qualified person and constructed and loaded in accordance with that design.
- Guardrails should be installed along all open sides and ends of the working and walking sections of the scaffold.
- ! A scaffold platform or walkway must be at least 18 inches wide.
- An employer should develop and implement a written fall protection plan where employees are exposed to fall hazards.
- An employer should ensure that fall restraint, fall arrest systems, or positioning devices are used when employees are exposed to fall hazards.
- The discharge end of the delivery hose (whip hose) needs to be well controlled during normal movement and restrained in the event of a line surge due to an air pocket, blockage or other flow disruption to prevent swinging of the end of the hose.

Note: Because the height of the fall was less than 10 ft., guard rails, a fall protection plan, and fall prevention equipment were not required, but would be highly recommended.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 3rd work-related fatality in Washington State during the year 2003 and was the 1st construction fatality of 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>.