

Fatality Narrative

Carpenter Falls into Elevator Shaft*

Industry: Seafood canning.
Occupation: Carpenter.
Task: Performing carpentry work.
Type of Incident: Fall.

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On August 28, 2007, a carpenter was killed from a 30 foot fall down an elevator shaft. The 73-year-old victim was a retired teacher who did occasional carpentry work. He had been a licensed contractor for about 17 years, but his license had expired several years ago. Over the past few years he had been helping an acquaintance build an oyster processing facility. The victim was working on the top floor of the building near an unguarded floor opening to an elevator shaft when he fell into the shaft, landing on the concrete floor 30 feet below.



View into elevator shaft from where victim fell.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Train employees to recognize fall hazards associated with working near floor openings.
- ! Employers must develop and implement a site specific fall prevention plan that controls, manages and / or eliminates fall hazards prior to assigning employees to work at or on elevated areas.
- ! Ensure that temporary floor openings are protected by guardrails or covers.
- ! Provide personal fall protection equipment to all workers who are exposed to fall hazards and open sided surfaces that are not guarded.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 63rd out of 77 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2007, and was the 14th out of 16 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. 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.*

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