

Fatality Narrative

Ironworker Falls While Moving Roof Decking Bundle*

Industry: Structural steel erection
Occupation: Journey-level ironworker
Task: Moving a bundle of roofing material
Type of Incident: Fall through roof opening

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On July 25, 2006, a journey-level ironworker died after falling 30 feet while moving a bundle of roof decking. The 31-year-old victim had six years experience as an ironworker and had been employed with his current employer, a structural steel erection company, for two weeks. The job site was at a commercial building under construction. The victim was trying to reposition a bundle of metal decking to be used for sheeting the building's roof. The 1,500 lb. bundle had been hoisted by a crane and left on the roof's steel girders. The bundle of decking was intended to span 3 girders, but because of crane limitations, it was placed spanning only 2 girders with its ends cantilevered over the girders. The victim was using a come-along to move the bundle into position to span 3 girders and bear weight on each end of the bundle. The bundles were moved using a come-along attached to a beam with a cable, and a hook attached to the bundle. The victim was standing on the bundle, ratcheting the come-along, to move it into position. He was wearing a full body harness and was using the bundle as an anchor point to which he had tied-off his deceleration lanyard. The victim was standing on the cantilevered end of the bundle as it was moved, causing it to tip sending him and the bundle falling 30 feet to the ground below. Emergency responders transported the victim to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.



Photo: The bundle of roof decking on-site after the incident

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Employers need to develop a fall protection plan that includes the identification of hazards, fall prevention and protection methods, and the installation of protective systems.
- ! Employees must never tie-off to a bundle that is being “endo-ed” (moved end-wise) with a come-along to get the bearing weight on the end of the bundle.
- Appropriate anchorage points need to be identified and utilized.
- Lanyards need to be connected to a secured anchorage capable of safely supporting the worker.
- When placing bundled decking, ensure that the ends are supported by the structural steel.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 46th out of 81 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2006, and was the 11th out of 23 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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<http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.

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