



SAFETY ALERT # 27



October 23, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

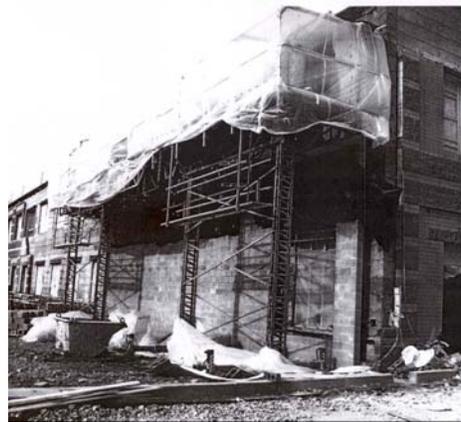
ON THE JOB STROKE CAUSES FALL AND FATALITY

What Happened

A 56-year-old construction worker fell approximately 8 to 10 feet while climbing the structure of a hydromobile scaffold. An autopsy showed that the worker had a stroke while climbing the scaffold, presumably causing the fall. The contractor had not installed the fixed ladder supplied by the manufacturer nor had they provided a portable ladder for access. Employees were required to climb the scaffold structure itself.

Prevention:

This case presents some interesting prevention strategies. It would be easy to say that, since the employee suffered a stroke, there was really nothing the employer could have done to prevent the fatality. This is a perfect example however of why an employer should consider some sort of wellness program for their employees. Regardless of the reason for this accident the employer has lost an important employee with very valuable experience. The company was issued one serious violation for not providing appropriate access to the scaffold platform (Part 12, Rule 1211(1)) and an "OTS" for failure to provide training by a competent person (Part 12, 1209(1)).



A Few Facts

- Worldwide, stroke is the second leading cause of death, responsible for 4.4 million (9 percent) of the total 50.5 million deaths each year.
- Stroke is the No. 3 cause of death in the U.S., behind heart disease (with which it is closely linked) and cancer.
- Stroke affects more than 700,000 individuals annually in the United States (approximately one person every 45 seconds). About 500,000 of these are first attacks, and 200,000 are recurrent attacks.
- Someone in the U.S. dies every 3.3 minutes from stroke
- Stroke is the leading cause of disability among adults in the U.S.

Special thanks to the Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program <http://oem.msu.edu/miface.asp> and The University Hospital (www.theuniversityhospital.com)