



SAFETY ALERT # 8



Week of November 28th, 2005

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.

What Happened

An employee working from a ladder got his feet tangled up as he was descending the ladder. He fell from the third rung, the ladder tipped and he struck the railing with his upper arm, causing a fracture. (he stated that he was tied off prior to descending the ladder, but that could not be confirmed) Because of the location and position he was in, he could not self-rescue. EMS was called, but because it was not only a medical emergency but also a rescue from heights, a second crew was called in. While they were waiting for the second squad to arrive, co-workers began to secure the injured worker to a sheet of plywood and tried to get him down via the stairs. Because of his arm injury, and the width of the plywood, they could not make their way straight down the stairs and had to hoist him over their heads while descending the stairs. Rescue from the screen guard took nearly an hour, he was almost tipped when they were coming down from the stairs with him.

Applicable Standards

Part 11 - Ladders

Rule 1112. (1) The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who uses a ladder. The program shall enable each employee to recognize hazards related to the ladder and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed to minimize these hazards.

Rule 1124. (3) A portable ladder that is used at such a pitch that the horizontal projected distance from the top support to the base is less than 1/5 of the vertical distance between these points shall be secured at the top to prevent tipping backward.

Part 45 – Fall Protection

1926.503 (a) “Training program.” (1) The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

Part 1 – General Rules

Rule 132. (2) Before beginning a project, provision shall be made for prompt medical attention in case of serious injury.

Recommendations

- Have a rescue plan in place with rescue equipment available and accessible
- Do not assume that the rescuing agency is capable of providing the service you expect. Not all fire departments are capable of high angle rescues. Make sure they know your site and operation
- Develop site-specific safety plans for all aspects and stages of the job.
- Provide all workers with site specific training.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment.

Joe Forgue ARM, ASP

Manager of Education and Safety Services

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (CAM)

(248) 972-1141 direct

forgue@cam-online.com
