

FATAL ALERT

July 28, 2015

Two industrial painters were working as painters at a general industry setting conducting painting activities on elevated work surfaces. The work being performed by the two painters was considered construction work. Both received a safety briefing before starting as well as the daily “tool box talk” and the day’s work objectives were discussed with the painters.

At approximately 7:00 am the two painters proceeded to the designated work area for the day. A supervisor observed Painter 1 perform a pre-shift inspection of his fall protection. The supervisor remained long enough to ensure Painter 1 understood his work assignment and was using his fall protection equipment properly. At approximately 11:00 am a supervisor and a newly hired worker went the work area where the painter 1 was working to give out a work assignment for the remainder of the day. At approximately 12:45 pm a supervisor revisited the work area observed both Painter 1 and 2 wearing their fall protection and using it correctly.

At approximately 3:07 pm a supervisor called Painter 1 and told him that both Painter 1 and Painter 2 would need to come down from where they were working ten minutes early to help paint some hand rails. Which were on the ground level at another locations and finish out their normal work shift. The normal work shift ends normally at 5:00 pm. At approximately 4:30 pm the Painter 1 and 2 were doing as instructed by the supervisor, to meet him at another location. After collecting his tools Painter 1 proceeded to transition from the scaffold to two foot wide I-beam which was lying flat at the elevation of 236 feet from ground level. Painter 2 stated he observed Painter 1 place his tools through the handrails of the scaffold, step through the handrails of the scaffold, stand up and hit his head on the overhead structure, which would be the bottom of the elevation 242 platform. At this point is where Painter 1 lost his balance and fell to elevation 191 and landed on the walkway, which was approximately forty-five feet. Painter 2 also stated he also tried to verbally warn Painter 1 that he did not properly attach his lanyard to an anchor point but it was too late. Painter 1 fell from the walking/working surface and later died from injuries received.

At approximately 4:40 pm onsite responders responded to the accident scene where they found Painter 1 lying face down and unresponsive and they began to assess and provide treatment. Painter 1 was still wearing his fall protection at this time.

Findings:

- Employer allowed employees to work on elevated work surfaces without adequate Fall Protection.
- Employer allowed employees to work on elevated work surfaces without adequate Fall Protection training.
- Emergency services were provided within minutes by onsite RN Paul Coleman.
- Drug and alcohol testing results all came back negative.

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Ensure management/employees are trained on OSHA construction industry rules applicable to work being performed.
- Train/retrain all employees on hazards recognition methods to use to avoid unsafe working conditions.