

## FATAL ALERT

Date of Accident: January 9, 2012

Employees were installing doors on the second floor of new 4 plex units being built for National Park Service. Employees had installed two doors that morning and had just finished installing a third door when the accident occurred. Operations Manager and Carpenter were installing doors and two others were assisting (providing materials as needed). Operations Manager and Carpenter were taking turns working outside on homemade scaffolding system they had erected at the three locations. The Operations Manager was working on the outside scaffolding while the Carpenter was working from the inside of the building. They had completed the door installation and the Operations Manager had gone down to talk with the Project Manager. Upon finishing the meeting with the Project Manager, the Operations Manager went back up on the scaffolding to dismantle it so that it could be installed at another doorway location. The Operations Manager had removed sheathing lying over the scaffold planking and had removed the outer plank when he slipped and fell to the frozen ground below causing him to strike his head. The Operations Manager fell just over 14 feet from either the scaffolding plank or the ladder (both witnesses' statements differ on where the Production Manager fell from).

### Significant Factors:

- Management/employee used a ladder found onsite that was damaged.
- The ladder was not inspected prior to use to identify hazards and tagged out of service, or reported to General Contractor onsite prior to use (both feet were bent inward.)
- Management/employee(s) had never performed 2<sup>nd</sup> story door installation work before.
- In the past this work was done at or near ground level in the manufacturing plant.
- Project Manager failed to follow General Contractor policies and procedures and failed to direct on site Operations Manager to cease work per General Contractors request just prior to accident.
- Operations Manager/Carpenter(s) did not recognize the hazards and had not been properly trained on construction rules associated with ladders and scaffolding.
- Neither Operations Manager nor Carpenter(s) had been trained to a "Competent Person" level regarding scaffolding and a Competent Person had not inspected the ladder prior to use.

### Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Ensure any equipment (in the case of the fatality a ladder with feet damaged/bent) being used onsite is safe to use prior to start of job, if not tag equipment out or contact general contractor for disposition of onsite equipment.
- Ensure employees are trained to not use equipment (ladder) found onsite unless trained and authorized.
- Ensure management and employees follow general contractor requirements while on any construction site. In this case a requirement for pre-approved fall protection plan was not obtained, on-site orientation training was not completed by all employees, and personnel that had went to and completed on-site orientation and safety meetings addressing ladders and scaffolding did not follow information provided.
- Ensure company management communicates general contractor requirements. In this case, the Project Manager did not instruct employees to cease work and not to proceed with exterior door installation from 2nd floor until approval was given.
- Ensure management/employees are trained on OSHA construction rules applicable to the work being performed when on construction sites.
- Train/retrain all employees on hazards/citations to recognize and avoid unsafe work conditions when working on construction sites.