

## **FATAL ALERT**

On November 7, 2014, an employee (roofing laborer) working for a construction company was fatally injured when he fell approximately 68' from a low sloped roof, through a hole that was approximately 3 feet by 3 feet'. The hole was intended for a roof curb that would support a piece of mechanical equipment.

Three employees were installing insulated metal roof panels on the same roof level where the incident occurred. The company was using a crane to lift the metal panels to the employees on the roof. When the panel was lifted to the working level the installers would move to that area of the roof where the panels were and complete installation.

The roofing laborer was not supplied an anchorage point due to there being three workers on the roof and only two anchorage points. The hole was not covered to prevent a falling hazard which resulted in the roofing laborer backing up to allow room for a panel to land on the roof in which the roofing laborer fell through the uncovered opening. At the time of the incident, the roofing laborer was wearing a harness with a lanyard attached. The lanyard had not been deployed indicating that he was not connected to an anchorage point at the time he fell through the opening.

### **Significant Factors**

- The roofing contractor did not have the adequate fall protection at the time he fell.
- All three workers failed to identify the fall hazards present.
- The 3 foot by 3 foot hole was not effectively guarded/covered.
- The employees were not adequately trained in fall protection.
- There was no competent person present.
- The deceased was not retrained after being disciplined for lack fall protection usage.

### **Recommendations**

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal incident.
- In accordance with OSHA CFR 1926 ensure employees are properly trained on the proper use and installation of fall protection.
- Ensure that when site-specific fall protection plans are to be used they are followed.
- Ensure a preventative job task analysis is performed to identify job specific hazards.
- Ensure a preconstruction meeting is accomplished.
- Ensure employees are retrained when they have demonstrated a deficiency in fall protection knowledge.