

FATAL ALERT

On November 14, 2015, while two employees were working for a metal decking company moving and placing metal decking, one of the employees he fell from the working surface and died.

During the work activities, the two employees picked up a sheet of metal decking that had been left from previous work activities some 60 feet from fall protection anchor points and were in the process of moving it to where it was to be placed and installed. This require the employees go back onto the already decked surfaces and carry the loose sheet to where it would be placed and later welded into place. The movement of scatter decking material required the employee to move the material a great distance from the location of the fall protection system, this required the employees to disconnect from the fall protection system and reconnect when they returned to the leading edge work area. When the employees left the fall protection area and returned with a sheet of decking in their hands, at least one employee did not reconnected to the fall protection system.

At the time of the incident, there were witnesses present that described hearing continuous footsteps on the roof above them moving back and forth to and from the leading edge. It was observed that the employee that fell was not connected to a fall protection system although he was wearing a harness.

Significant Factors

- The workers were working on the weekend without the consent of the General Contractor.
- Inadequate fall hazard recognition.
- Inadequate safety culture among workers.
- Inadequate fall protection training.

Recommendations

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this incident.
- Ensure policies and procedures implemented by the employer and the General Contractor are followed at all times.
- Ensure proper safety culture is developed among workers to help prevent injuries and or death.
- Ensure employees working on the weekends follow safety protocols.
- Ensure all employees are properly trained on fall protection and steel erection.
- Ensure all employees are connected to a fall protection system when working at heights that require fall protection.