



Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

Accident Type: Fall
Injury: Broken arm/laceration
Type of work: Reinforcing Steel

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAP Three steelworkers were in the process of installing an exterior 4'X8' sheet of plywood form for a concrete wall placement 20' above grade. Two workers held the plywood sheet in place while the injured employee, inserted the wall ties from a position above the plywood sheet being installed. The worker fell as a result of improperly used fall protection equipment.

CAUSE The worker used a positioning device as his only means of fall protection and attached to an inadequate anchor point. The lesson to be learned from this accident is that although standards allow reinforcing steelworkers to use body belts with positioning devices while tying reinforcing steel, this must be used in conjunction with a full body harness attached with a lanyard designed to limit the employee fall distance to no more than six feet affixed to a suitable anchor point. As we know, and must review, a 100% fall protection rule exists for work over six feet. This being the case, employees may well be required to utilize two lanyards in addition to the positioning device to allow for employee movement from one location to another. **The positioning device is not acceptable as the primary means of fall protection additional harness and lanyards are needed.** Please use the following slides to assist in depicting the event.

Location where injured employee was standing.



Location where plywood wall form was being installed.



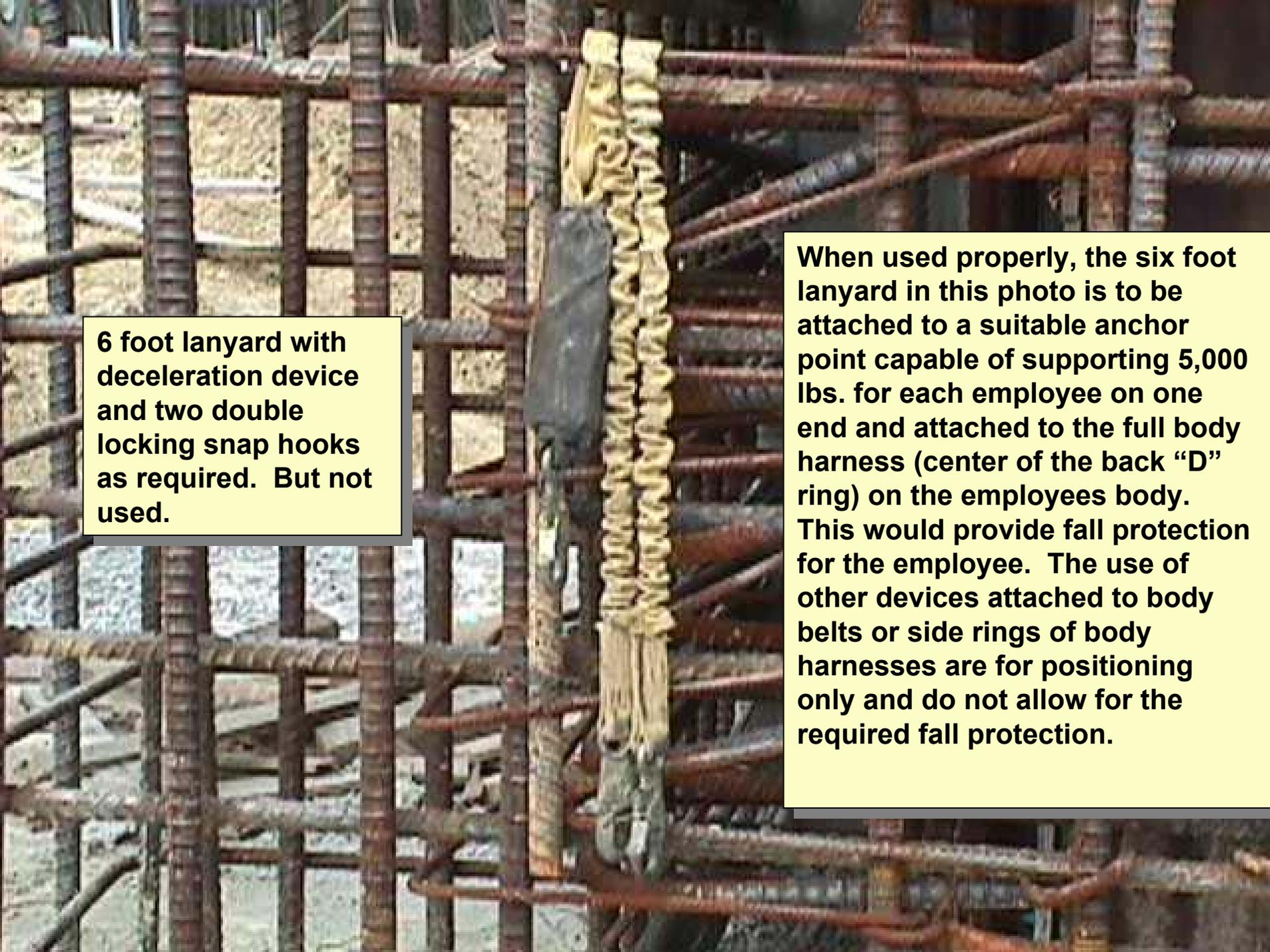


Reenactment to pin point location of employee and tie off point.

Positioning device.



Improper tie off point by employee to “DOG” (#6 rebar) secured with tie wire. “DOG” dislodged, flipping downward, causing an open hook situation allowing the positioning device to slide off.



6 foot lanyard with deceleration device and two double locking snap hooks as required. But not used.

When used properly, the six foot lanyard in this photo is to be attached to a suitable anchor point capable of supporting 5,000 lbs. for each employee on one end and attached to the full body harness (center of the back “D” ring) on the employees body. This would provide fall protection for the employee. The use of other devices attached to body belts or side rings of body harnesses are for positioning only and do not allow for the required fall protection.