

## Naval Facilities Engineering Command

# Abstract of an Accident

00-2

**Accident Type:** Fall from ladder  
**Injury:** Fatality  
**Type of Work:** Descending from work platform  
**Equipment Involved:** Ladder

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Although there were no eyewitnesses, worker apparently fell to his death while descending from second floor work platform at the end of the workday.

### DIRECT CAUSE:

An approved method for ascending/descending from the work platform, e.g. a ladder integral to the scaffolding system, was not installed. Instead, workers were permitted to set up a temporary ladder to an access platform three feet below the work platform. The ladder was not tied off, did not have slip resistant feet and did not extend at least 3 feet above the access platform. The access platform, consisting of two 25 cm wide planks, did not meet minimum safety requirements. There was no safe method to reach the work platform from the access platform. The work platform had a top rail, but no mid-rail or toe board. If a mid-rail had been installed, the workers would not have been able to access the work platform in this manner.

### CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:

- The contractor's full time safety manager indicated he had seen the ladder set up that morning and had told workers not to use it. He did not remove the ladder or ensure it was removed. No other responsible parties indicate that they saw the temporary ladder, although it reportedly had been in use for 7 to 10 days.
- The contractor's quality control manager was unaware that his responsibilities included a daily site safety check.
- There is no documentation that the employee received safety training. The safety manager provided weekly training to the foremen of the crews and relied on them to provide the training to the workers.

### LESSONS LEARNED:

- Ensure weekly training reaches the lowest level. Had the contractor's safety manager provided training directly to the workers, it may have increased their safety consciousness.
- Ensure contractors' quality control representatives are informed of their responsibilities for a daily safety site check per EM-385-1-1.
- Ensure a thorough daily safety site inspection by safety managers, contractor quality control representatives, and/or site superintendents.
- Ensure immediate follow through on noted safety deficiencies.



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