



Northern Division,
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Abstract of an Accident

ACCIDENT TYPE: FALL FROM SCAFFOLDING
INJURY: FATALITY
TYPE OF WORK: MASON TENDER WORKING ON SCAFFOLDING
EQUIPMENT: GUARD RAILS, MID RAILS, TOE BOARDS, AND CROSS BRACING

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

While tending two masons on fourth level scaffold staging approximately 27 ft. high, a mason's tender received a load of mortar. Prior to receiving the mortar, the guard rails, mid rails, toe boards and cross bracing were removed to allow the load to be delivered. No alternate fall protection was worn during this operation. After, the lull driver had withdrawn the load and proceeded to his next assignment, several minutes later the tender fell to his death. There were no eye witnesses to the mishap. However, witnesses stated that all guard rails, mid rails, toe boards, and cross bracing were in place when they arrived at the scene of the mishap on the fourth staging level. Pictures taken by ROICC personnel immediately after the accident also show all guard rails to be in place. Scaffolding was constructed in accordance with OSHA regulations. Although OSHA standards were met, EM 385-1-1 page 348, paragraph 21.C.01 (e) which requires fall protection, was not enforced. When safety rails were lowered to receive the mortar load, fall protection should have been worn. The following recommendations are made:

a. U.S. Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM-1-1) must be complied with. Although not considered a direct effect in this accident given the statements of witnesses, alternate fall protection must be provided when guard rails, mid rails, cross bracing are removed for any reason. Although OSHA inspectors stated this practice was in accordance with 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L, we are still obligated to insure that the contractor is in conformance with U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers *Safety and Health Requirements Manual* (EM 385-1-1), Sections 21.A.15 and 22.A.

b. Site Safety and Health Plans must be scrutinized closely to insure that a hazard analysis is performed for work in elevated areas. Fall protection shall be delineated in the hazard analysis and accepted by the ROICC prior to the start of work (EM 385-1-1, 22.A.03)

c. Training of contractors personal must be monitored closely to insure all training is timely and occurs prior to the particular work progressing. (EM 385-1-1, 01.C.01)