

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Vertical fall greater than six feet

Date: 12 July 2001

WHAT HAPPENED: Worker was working outside of the 6-foot warning line along the roofs edge. He took off his harness which was attached to the safety cable and tried to jump 4-feet to the upper level instead of using the ladder. He lost his balance falling 12-feet fracturing his elbow.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Failure to follow Activities Hazard Analysis.
- Improper method of access to upper level.

RESULTS: Fractured elbow.

LESSON LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Ensure all employees are trained to use fall protection and access/egress properly.**

21.A.16 Training.

a. Each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards shall be trained by a competent person qualified in the following areas, in the safe use of access ways and fall protection systems and the recognition of hazards related to their use, including:

- (1) The nature of access and fall hazards in the work area,
- (2) The correct procedures for constructing, erecting, maintaining, using, and dismantling access ways and fall protection systems,
- (3) The maximum intended load-carrying capacities of access ways and fall protection systems, and
- (4) All applicable requirements from this section, and
- (5) The limitations on the use of mechanical equipment during the performance of roofing work on low-sloped roofs, the correct procedures

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for handling and storage of equipment and materials, and the erection of overhead protection.

b. Retraining shall be provided as necessary for employees to maintain an understanding of these subjects.

c. The employer shall verify employee training by a written certification record which identifies the employee trained, the dates of the training, and the signature of the trainer.

ACTIONS TAKEN: A safety meeting was held to insure that all workers are aware of their safety responsibilities. Stress the responsibilities of the dedicated safety monitor, who is not to let anyone remove their personal protective equipment at anytime. Ladder will be used for access/egress at all times.