

Lessons Learned

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT

ACCIDENT: Vertical fall greater than six feet

Date: 26 July 2000

WHAT HAPPENED: Employee was walking on the apron of a turbine pit to check water pipe for leaks. Employee's hardhat hit one of the reinforcement ribs above his head. The bump knocked his hard hat over his eyes, momentarily disorienting him and causing him to lose his balance. Employee fell from the apron, 20 feet to land between the wicket gate arms. Employee's earmuffs held on his hard hat when he hit his head. He sustained a cut to his head and a cut to his right palm. Employee is 6 feet tall and the area in which he was attempting to walk was only 4 feet 4 inches high. The apron ledge was 4 feet wide. Co-workers were located just outside the turbine pit.

CONTIBUTING FACTORS:

- No Activity Hazard Analysis brief prior to start of work
- No fall protection
- Limited access to work area

RESULTS: Employee received bruises to body and a cut to his forehead. Employee treated and released from local hospital.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- **Prepare and properly brief the activity hazard analysis prior to performing the task.**

01.A.10 A hazard analysis shall be prepared and documented for each USACE as warranted by the hazards associated with the activity. Generally, an activity hazard analysis shall be prepared for all field operations.

- a. The designated authority, using the advice of the safety and occupational health office, shall determine the need for an analysis for each activity within their area of responsibility.
- b. In developing the analysis for a particular activity, supervisors should draw upon the knowledge and experience of employees in that activity and the safety and occupational health office.

- **Use proper fall protection when required**

- 21.A.01 Safe access shall be provided to all work areas.
- a. Where there is a horizontal or vertical break of 48 cm (19 in) or more in a route of access, a stairway, ladder, ramp, or personnel hoist shall be provided.
 - b. Means of access constructed of metal shall not be used for electrical work or where they might contact electrical conductors.
 - c. When a structure has only one means of access between levels, that means shall be kept clear to permit free passage of employees: if work is performed in an area that restricts free passage, a second means of access shall be provided.
 - d. When a structure has two or more means of access between levels, at least one means of access shall always be available for free passage of employees.
- **Only enter access areas that have ample space to maneuver and work.**

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