

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

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Vertical fall greater than six feet

Date: 18 Oct 2001

WHAT HAPPENED: While removing gypsum roof panel's from the edge of the building the panels beneath him gave way. The plywood on which he was standing fell along with the 5' X 5' gypsum panel. Even though he was wearing a full body harness, the rope grabber was not installed properly and he fell approximately 20 ft landing on his right side.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Workers rope grabber was not installed properly.
- Plywood decking was improper thickness.

RESULTS: Fractured right arm.

LESSON LEARNED:

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

- **Ensure all employees are trained to use fall protection properly and load-carrying capacities of decking is correct.**

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: Corps QA stopped work and had the contractor re-train all involved employees on proper use of fall protection to include rope grabbing devices and entire tie-off systems. Emphasize the requirement for proper plywood thickness for additional protection over suspect area.