

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

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Worker was working on the third level of a scaffold when he fell between the scaffold and the building.

Date: 21 February 2000

WHAT HAPPENED: Worker was raising the outrigger scaffold boards (footboards) from the third level to the fourth level. As the outrigger boards were removed, one of the boards started to fall. Worker did not let go of the board and fell approximately 18 feet between the building and the scaffold. Company policy states that anytime changes are made to a scaffold that the workers wear proper fall protection equipment and that they tie off. Worker did not don his personal fall protection equipment as required by company policy prior to removing the outrigger boards. After the accident, all workers were retrained on the proper procedures for dismantling/erecting a scaffold.



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Worker was fully trained but did not follow established safety procedures
- Failed to use his personal fall protection equipment

RESULTS: Suffered cuts to his mouth, lips, and is expected to fully recover. He spent three days in the hospital for observation and was released on 2/24/00. The contractor estimates the employee will be away from work for approximately 7 days.

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LESSONS LEARNED:

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

- **Never work without proper fall protection (guardrails or personal fall protection equipment) while working on a scaffold.**

22.A.15 Fall Protection

- a. Employees shall be protected by standard guardrail, catch platforms, temporary floors, safety nets, personal fall protection devices, or the equivalent in the following situations:
 1. On accessways (excluding ladders) or work platforms from which they may fall 1.8m (6 ft) or more,
 2. On accessways or work platforms over water, machinery, or dangerous operations,
 3. On runways from which they may fall 1.2m (4 ft) or more

22.A.02 Work platforms shall comply with appropriate access and fall protection requirements of Section 21

- b. Standard railing and handrails for work platforms shall be in compliance with the requirements of Section 21 and personal fall protection devices and safety nets shall be in compliance with the requirements of Section 21C.

- **Ensure personnel are trained on the proper use of personal fall protection systems and ensure that they follow established procedures.**

21.A.16.a 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 accessways 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 areas,
 - (2) the correct procedures for constructing, erecting, maintaining, using, and dismantling accessways and fall protection systems,
- b. Retraining shall be provided as necessary for employees to maintain an understanding of these subjects.