

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

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Stepped off roof

Date: 29 May 2002

WHAT HAPPENED: Worker was welding on roof and stepped back falling off approximately 30 feet. He was using a full body harness but did not have it attached to the horizontal lifeline.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Harness was not attached to lifeline
- Not watching surroundings

RESULTS: Compound Fracture of Wrist, Fractured left leg & cuts

LESSONS LEARNED:

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

- **Ensure employees are trained on fall protection requirements and usage.**
 - 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 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.

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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.