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ALASKA FACE Facts

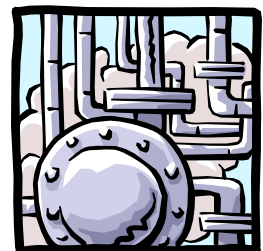
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Pipefitter Dies from 40-foot fall

A 32-year-old journeyman pipefitter was killed when he fell 40 feet from a metal roof. The pipefitter (the victim) had climbed onto the roof to direct the placement of a tool case on top of a scaffold platform. The victim was wearing a body harness with an attached lanyard but was not secured to a lifeline or the scaffold. The lift operation required a mobile crane to lift the case from one side of the building, over the roof, to the opposite side. The victim was using a two-way radio to communicate instructions to the crane operator. While the case was being lowered to the crew on the scaffold, the victim lost radio contact with the crane operator. He walked to the peak of the roof to see if he could give visual signals to the operator. As he neared the peak, the victim slipped or tripped, fell over the peak, and slid down the opposite side. The victim fell 40 feet to the ground. Co-workers immediately called for emergency assistance. The victim was transported to the site's medical facility where he died a short time later.

Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Ensure that workers adhere to existing standards and procedures for the use of personal fall restraint equipment and ensure that equipment meets all safety standards before it is placed in use.**
- **Ensure that workers are able to recognize and avoid hazardous situations and be able to effectively warn others of potential hazards.**
- **Routinely conduct scheduled and unscheduled worksite safety inspections.**



To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us