



# **Physics Division**

## **ESH Bulletin 96-2**

### **FALL PROTECTION**

#### **RED ALERT**

#### **R-1996-OR-LMESCENT-0201**

**Lesson Learned:** All employees must be constantly aware of the importance of using fall protection, to stay away from potential fall areas without the proper protective equipment and to follow elevated platform safety procedures.

**Problem/Issue:** A construction subcontractor at the Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LITCO) who was not wearing fall protection equipment was fatally injured in a fall from an elevated platform.

**Discussion:** At approximately 1130 hours on 02/20/96, a construction subcontractor project engineer, a crane vendor, and an iron worker were on top of containers (approximately 20' high x 140' wide x 150' long) performing final checks and making crane adjustments. They were not wearing fall protection equipment. The project engineer stepped out onto a temporary work platform that had been installed to provide access to a HVAC duct joint to view a drive wheel. The platform was approximately 8' x 8' and consisted of 2 x 10s with plywood decking, and angle iron connected with all thread to the duct work at the wall of the building, with no guard rails.

The crane vendor heard a noise and turned toward the platform area, witnessing the project engineer falling from the platform. The crane vendor and the iron

worker immediately responded to get emergency medical help. The project engineer was transported by ambulance to the Central Facilities Area clinic where he was stabilized but in critical condition. He was then transported via Air Idaho Rescue to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls. At approximately 1630 the project engineer died.

## Summary of Recent Occurrences Involving Fall Protection Programs

### 1. Subcontractor Employee Injury Due to Fall From Roof

Occurrence Number: ID--LITC-DFA-1996-0001 (2/21/96)

Idaho National Engineering Lab/Lockheed Idaho Technologies Company

NOTE: This is a different incident at LITCO than described in the Red Alert.

A construction subcontractor employee was working on the roof of a building under construction when the wind gusted causing him to lose balance and he fell approximately 14 feet to the ground landing on soft sand. The employee was wearing retractable fall protection equipment. At this time, it is unsure whether the equipment failed or if it was operator error. The employee was transported to the hospital.

### 2. Fall Greater Than Six Feet

Occurrence Number: RL--WHC-KHPNL&L-1996-0001 (2/23/96)

Westinghouse Hanford

An ICF KH subcontractor employee fell approximately 15 feet into an open process sewer manhole. The employee was not protected by a fall protection system. Forms were being removed from around the manhole at the time and preparations were being made to install a new concrete lid. The employee was shoveling and struck a hard object under the surface of the ground. This caused him to lose his balance and fall into the hole, landing feet first. The employee suffered a cracked bone beneath the right knee cap.

### 3. Subcontractor Working Without Fall Protection

Occurrence Number: CH-BH-BNL-PE-1996-0004 (2/26/96)

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Two subcontractor employees were working from a height of 36 feet above grade level without adequate fall protection. This is an OSHA violation (imminent danger), and therefore, the job was stopped by the Plant Engineering Project Engineer. The subcontractor was asked to immediately leave the BNL site and the General Contractor was notified of the incident. The subcontractor advised BNL that the two employees who were working in an unsafe manner were fired.

#### 4. Employees Working on Building 115 Roof Without Fall Protection

Occurrence Number: RFO--KHLL-SUPPORT-1996-0010 (2/26/96)

Rocky Flats Plant/Kaiser-Hill Company

Two individuals were observed near the roof edge (approximately 2 feet from the side) of a roof 17 feet high without proper fall protection. Supervision was contacted and the work was immediately stopped.

#### 5. Building 460 Employee Injured in Ladder Fall

Occurrence Number: RFO-KHLL-NONPUOPS1-1996-0012 (2/26/92)

Fire Department rescue personnel responded to Building 460 to assist a 53 year old employee who sustained a shoulder injury. During a job review, the employee was standing with one foot on a step ladder when he stepped back onto a concrete berm and tripped over a hose lying across the tank berm. The employee was admitted to the hospital.

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NOTE: While the fatality at LITCO resulted from a fall from an elevated surface, it is important to note that there are many potential hazards associated with construction or construction-like activities. Anyone requiring access to a construction or construction-like site, especially those who access these sites infrequently, must be made aware of the potential hazards and take the same precaution as construction personnel.

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