

DOE NEWS

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DOE COMPLETES ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

A DOE accident investigation board looking into the cause of the July 15, 2004 fatality in Hanford's 200 East Area has released its report. The deceased was an employee of a small local firm that had been hired by another private company to retrieve a mobile office trailer that had been excessed and sold through a community reuse organization.

The accident occurred while the trailer was being prepared for transport. Although there were no witnesses to the accident, it appeared that the worker fell from the ladder he was using while removing sheet metal screws from aluminum trim on the building. The employee sustained a serious head injury and was transported to Kadlec Medical Center in Richland where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Safety training and processes that are in place for similar work done by Hanford cleanup contractors had not been applied to this work. The investigation board report indicates that the accident may have been preventable had common safety practices been followed such as keeping hands free when climbing a ladder and understanding how to manage heat stress. The board also noted that the worker's pre-existing medical conditions may have contributed to the accident.

The full accident investigation report will be available on the internet, at <http://www.hanford.gov/spannounce.html>.

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