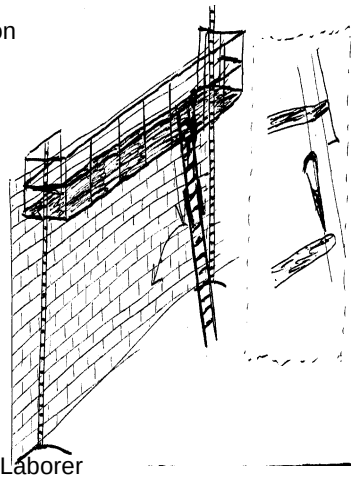
ACCIDENT REPORT
DISASTERS FROM FALLS

U.S. Department of Labor ● Occupational Safety and Health Administration ● Kansas City Region VII
No. 5

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type:	Fall from height
Weather Conditions:	Clear, 69F., Wind: S at 14 per hr.
Type of Company:	Masonry Construction
Size of Work Crew:	24
Union or Non-Union:	Non-Union
Worksite Inspections Conducted:	Yes
Designated Competent Person on Site:	Yes
Employer Safety and Health Program	Yes
Training and Education for Employees:	Yes
Craft of Deceased Employee:	Masonry Laborer
Age/Sex:	23 - M
Time on the Job:	2 weeks
Time at the Task:	2 hour



SOURCES OF HELP

✦ OSHA standards, regulations, documents and technical information are available on the Internet World Wide Web at http://www.OSHA.gov./. That information also is on CD-ROM, which may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250, Order No. 729-13-00000-5; cost $79 annually; $28 quarterly.

✦ For hard copies of OSHA Construction Standards [29 CFR Part 1926], which include all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations covering construction, contact Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, order number 869-022-00114-1, $33.

✦ OSHA-funded free consultation services listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.

✦ OSHA Safety and Health Training Guidelines for Construction, Volume III (Available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone (703)487-4650; Order No. PB-239-312/AS, $25 to help construction employers establish a training program.

✦ Courses in construction safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018, (847) 297-4810, and Maple Woods Community College Business Technology Center, 6899 Executive Drive, Kansas City, MO 64120, (816) 482-5210.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Employee fell approximately 14 feet from a fiberglass extension ladder which was being used to access Morgen brand scaffolding. The ladder was secured at the top and the bottom with #9 wire. Just prior to the accident, employees jacked up the scaffold platform. Since the ladder was secured at the top and bottom during scaffold movement, the latching dogs released. The injured employee attempted to descend the ladder (with the dogs released), at which time the weight of the employee caused the #9 wire at the top to break and the ladder began to slide down. The employee rode the ladder down approximately 14 feet, experiencing a fracture to the femur bone in his leg.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Inspect ladders for visible defects on a periodic basis and after any occurrences that could affect their safe use.

Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from a fall. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of the legal aspects of the incident case. Your company or organization is eligible to receive one free copy of this leaflet which you may duplicate and share with your co-workers. To be placed on the distribution list, send your name, title and address to: U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA, 1100 Main, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, Attn: TECFAP, or e-mail to dearing-cynthia@dol.gov.