

## ACCIDENT REPORT

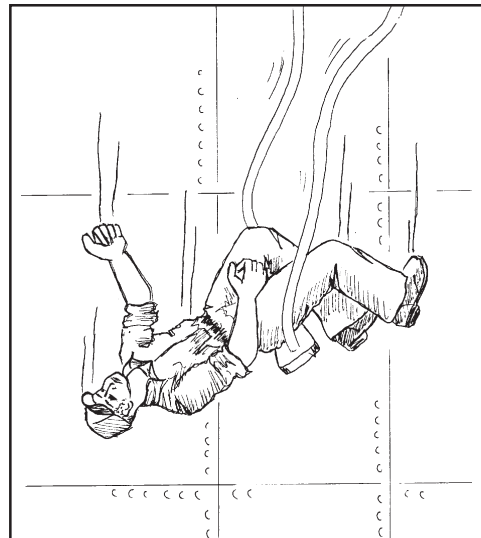
# DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 61

### ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: ..... Fall from water tower  
Weather Conditions: ..... Clear  
Type of Operation: ..... Sandblasting/painting  
repair  
Size of Work Crew: ..... 3  
Union or Non-Union: ..... Non-Union  
Worksite inspections conducted: ..... Yes  
Competent safety monitoring on-site: ..... Yes  
Safety and Health Program in effect: ..... No written programs  
Training and education for employees: ..... On-the-job-training  
Craft of employee: ..... Sandblaster, painter  
Age/Sex: ..... 19/Male  
Experience at this type of work: ..... 4 months  
Time on project: ..... 5 days



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Employee was accessing a water tower by a boatswain's chair. The boatswain's chair did not have an independent lifeline. Apparently the ladder rung to which the boatswain's chair was attached failed and the employee fell approximately 127 feet to the ground and later died.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure that suspension scaffolds are secured to a structurally sound point of anchorage on the building or structure. Wire ropes for suspension scaffolds need to be used in an appropriate manner.
2. When boatswain's chairs are being used, the employee should be protected by a separate personal fall arrest system. Boatswain's chairs need to be rigged properly.
3. Personal fall arrest systems need to be inspected prior to each use. Provide a written certification of employee training records for fall hazard recognition and procedures to minimize fall hazard.

### 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 regulation 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 the Metropolitan Community Colleges Business & Technology Center, 6899 Executive Drive, Kansas City, MO 64120, (816) 482-5210.



Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from a fall and/or electrocution. 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](mailto:dearing-cynthia@dol.gov).