

# FALL PROTECTION - IT'S A SNAP!

Region VII

Vol. 1, Issue 2

## SEVEN FATAL ACCIDENTS SINCE FALLS INITIATIVE BEGAN

There have been seven fatal accidents since the "Falls - It's a Snap!" initiative began in Region 7 in January 1998. "That's seven accidents too many," said Charles Adkins, Regional Administrator. "We've got to do a better job protecting workers from these preventable falls."

In Calendar Year (CY) 1997, there were 14 fatal/catastrophic falls in the construction industry in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. There were 8 in CY 1996 and 13 in CY 1995.

Two of the fatal accidents were falls from ladders: one fell 14 feet from a ladder; the other fell from a 12 foot ladder. Three other deaths were from falls from roofs: one was tearing shingles from a residential roof (fell about 16 feet); two others were installing sheeting/siding (fell 24 feet and 20-30 feet). There were two accidents with multiple victims: an elevated platform (about 30 feet high) collapsed killing one and hospitalizing another; and a lift with a basket attached (about 15-20 feet) tipped over, killing one and injuring another.

Three of the victims were aged 35 or older; four of the victims were age 34 or under, including one just 15 years old. "With 3 months left in 1998, let's hope that we've seen the last fatal fall in construction this year. I know with a concerted effort by labor, the industry, the public, and OSHA, we can prevent these accidents," Adkins said.

## FALLS INITIATIVE - AN AREA OFFICE REPORT - by Doug Schneider

The Omaha Area Office announced that the Falls Initiative received a very positive response throughout the State of Nebraska. Since the program's inception, the Omaha Area Office conducted 12 speeches, distributed over 450 employer packages, 24 training packages, 451 employee pocket guides, 366 public flyers, and mailed 345 informational outreach letters to all

construction contractors inspected within the last three years.

The outreach effort for this program began in February 1998 and concluded in June 1998. During this time frame, the Omaha Area Office conducted 83 construction inspections compared to only 39 for the same period in 1997. The public outreach resulted in 27 of those inspections in 1998 being initiated due to referrals as compared to 9 for the same period in 1997.

Compliance officers have also indicated that it is refreshing to see the posters and pocket guides being displayed and used when they arrive at a construction site.

## FALLS INITIATIVE - FROM A CSHO'S PERSPECTIVE - by Brian Drake

As a Compliance Officer in the field doing construction inspections in Kansas during the month of May, I witnessed good strides with fall protection. Most of the job sites visited had heard of the falls program and wanted more information on how to comply. Everyone I had contacted was very impressed with the outreach packets, and showed a sincere interest in making employees safer.

The bad news is that two job sites visited had fall protection hazards resulting in serious violations. However, I feel people in the construction industry are getting the message that the use of fall protection is very important to help keep employees safe.

## EMPLOYEE POCKET GUIDE - by Peggy Taylor

In our first issue we requested assistance on the Spanish translation of some of the construction terms used in the Employee Pocket Guide. Paul Jay, Sherwood Construction Co., Inc., volunteered to assist Dee Cantu in this translation project. Mr. Jay met with Ms. Cantu on September 29 to discuss the project. We appreciate his

assistance in the translation of the Employee Pocket Guide to Spanish.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS** - by Doug Schneider

- Q. Is it still possible to get a copy of the Employee Pocket Guide?
- A. Yes. Contact one of the Region VII Area Offices to obtain a copy. Also some compliance officers carry copies in their vehicles.
- Q. Can contractors and workers, who have seen the Employee Pocket Guide and poster on the jobsite, obtain copies of these documents by calling an OSHA Region 7 office?
- A. Yes. Contact one of the Region 7 Area Offices to obtain a copy.
- Q. Who did the fabulous artwork in the Employee Pocket Guide?
- A. The artwork was done by Doug Fletcher and Bonita Winingham, employees in our Omaha Area Office.

**GETTING THE WORD OUT** - by Peggy Taylor

Our Fall Protection - It's a Snap! newsletter and Disasters from Falls have been distributed to 337 mailing and 18 e-mail addresses, and 11 fax numbers.

Newsletters were also made available in Area Offices with publications provided to OSHA customers and distributed during inspections and informal settlement conferences.

The newsletter provides information about our region-wide program, and the accident report provides information about the fall accidents that have occurred in Region VII and recommendations for accident prevention. Please share these documents with others so that falls in construction are prevented.

If you would like to have an article published in future newsletters relative to the falls in construc-

tion program, please submit it to Peggy Taylor, Kansas City Regional Office address, or e-mail it to her at [taylor-peggy@dol.gov](mailto:taylor-peggy@dol.gov).

**REGION VII OFFICES**

**KANSAS**

301 N. Main, 300 Epic Center  
Wichita, KS 67202  
(316) 269-6644; fax: (316) 269-6185  
Toll-free: 1-(800) 362-2896 (Kansas only)

**MISSOURI (WESTERN)**

6200 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 100  
Kansas City, MO 64120  
(816) 483-9531; fax: (816) 483-5167  
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911 Washington Avenue, Room 420  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
(314) 425-4249; fax: (314) 425-4289  
Toll-free: 1-(800) 392-7743 (Missouri only)

**NEBRASKA**

Overland - Wolf Building, Room 100  
6910 Pacific Street  
Omaha, NE 68106  
(402) 221-3182; fax: (402) 221-3188  
Toll-free: 1-(800) 642-8963 (Nebraska only)

**REGIONAL OFFICE**

1100 Main Street, Suite 800  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
(816) 426-5861; fax: (816) 426-2750

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This newsletter is published in the OSHA Regional Office at 1100 Main Street, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, (816) 426-5861.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and the Disasters from Falls Accident Report via e-mail, contact Peggy Taylor at [taylor-peggy@dol.gov](mailto:taylor-peggy@dol.gov). If you do not have access to E-mail, please return the following:

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