

## ACCIDENT REPORT

# DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 57

### ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: ..... Fall, suspension scaffold  
collapse  
Weather Conditions: ..... Clear, calm  
Type of Company: ..... Exterior brick repair  
water proofing  
Size of Work Crew: ..... 3  
Union or Non-Union: ..... Non-Union  
Worksite inspections conducted: ..... No  
Designated competent person on-site: ..... Yes  
Safety and Health Program in effect: ..... None  
Training and education for employees: ..... Minimal  
Craft of deceased: ..... Casual laborer  
Age/Sex: ..... 56/Male  
Time on the job: ..... 1 week  
Time on project: ..... 1 hour



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A two-point, powered suspended scaffold was hung from the roof of a building approximately 23 feet above ground level. The two workers on the platform, which was 24 feet in length, had released the manual brakes and had lowered the platform approximately 8 inches when the left (south) side of the scaffold fell to the ground due to a series of mechanical and reeving failures. One worker fell to the ground and sustained fatal injuries. The other climbed to safety.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Use only non-flowable counterweights secured to the outriggers.
2. Secure outrigger beam tiebacks to structurally sound anchorage points.
3. Install outrigger beam tiebacks perpendicular to the face of the building, or install opposing angle tiebacks.
4. Install wire rope clips with U-bolts over the dead end suspension line.
5. Mechanically secure working platform to the stirrup-type hangars.
6. Ensure that suspension scaffold has a functioning automatic secondary braking device.
7. Inspect scaffold and scaffold components for visible defects prior to each work shift.
8. Ensure that each employee on a suspension scaffold is protected by a separately anchored personal fall arrest system.

### 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).