

## ACCIDENT REPORT

# DISASTER FACTS



• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 64

### ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: ..... Fall  
Weather Conditions: ..... Sunny  
Type of Operation: ..... Construction  
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: ..... Yes  
Training and education for employees: ..... Yes  
Craft of employees: ..... Millwright  
Age/Sex: ..... 46/Male  
Experience at this type of work: ..... 1 day  
Time on project: ..... 1 hour



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The company was to take down an old grain silo, the attached legs, spouts and towers. The plan was to secure the grain spout with a vehicle mounted boom lift and then take tower number 1 down. The victim climbed to the top of tower number 1 and tied off with his harness and 6' lanyard. He then started to cut the spout from the tower with an acetylene torch. As soon as the victim completed the cut, the tower started to fall because it was not securely imbedded in the concrete base of the structure. This tower fell into an adjacent tower. The victim rode the tower down as it fell. When the tower hit the second tower the victim also hit striking his head and upper torso. He later died from the injuries received.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Perform an engineering survey by a competent person to determine the possibility of unplanned collapse of any of the structure prior to permitting employees to start demolition operations.
2. Verify the safety, strength and structural integrity of the surface on which the employee is to be supported prior to permitting employees to start demolition operations.
3. Train employees on the proper use of anchoring systems for personal fall arrest systems.
4. Provide a means of fall protection which is independent of the structure to be demolished.

### 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 [cynthia.dearing@osha.gov](mailto:cynthia.dearing@osha.gov).