

MNMF Fatal 2010-10

- Fall of Person Accident
- June 12, 2010 (Minnesota)
- Sandstone Operation
- Contract welder/Ironworker
- 46 years old
- 4 years of experience

Overview

The victim died when he fell off a ladder. He then went over a handrail of a stairway landing and fell 47 feet to the ground below. He was standing on the ladder doing preparation work for a future weld on a ventilation duct. The ladder was located near the handrail.

The accident occurred because contractor management policies and procedures failed to ensure that persons could safely perform work while standing on a ladder where there was a danger of falling to a lower level. The victim was not wearing fall protection. Investigators could not determine if a shock or burn caused the victim to lose his balance.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Contractor management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons could safely perform work while standing on a ladder where there was a danger of falling.

Corrective Action: Contractor management trained all persons to recognize hazards where there is a danger of falling and to properly use fall protection where the potential falling hazards exist.

Best Practices

- Always use fall protection when working where a fall hazard exists.
- Position ladders to ensure their stability and to eliminate trip hazards.
- Always face the ladder when climbing or working from a ladder.
- Do not lean to reach items while standing on a ladder.
- Always maintain three points of contact with the ladder when climbing.