

MNMF Fatal 2013-14

- Fall of Person
- October 17, 2013 (California)
- Cement Operation
- Journeyman Electrician
- 52 years old
- 5 years of experience

Overview

The victim was seriously injured when he fell from a step ladder approximately six feet onto a concrete pad below. He was standing on the ladder pulling electrical cable into a cable tray located on the outside of the building. The cable tray struck the step ladder after a mounting bracket broke loose, causing the victim to fall onto the concrete pad. The victim was transported to a hospital where he died on October 19, 2013, as a result of his injuries. The victim was wearing a hard hat at the time of the accident.

The accident occurred because the two self-tapping screws used to mount the cable tray on the right side were not long enough to support the cable tray when electrical cable was placed in it. Both self-tapping screws on the right side mounting bracket pulled out of the sheet metal. The bottom screw also pulled out of a steel beam. The weight of the electrical cable and the physical loading of the cable put additional stress on the cable tray mounts, causing the mounting bracket screws to separate from the sheet metal and steel beam.

Additionally, the step ladder was positioned parallel to the building and the victim was working perpendicular to the ladder, placing his body at an angle to the ladder while performing the work.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Management did not ensure that the cable tray was secured to the wall of the MCC building when it was installed.

Corrective Action: The cable tray has been removed from the MCC building.

Root Cause: The step ladder was positioned parallel to the building and the victim was working perpendicular to the ladder, placing his body at an angle to the ladder while performing the work.

Corrective Action: All persons were re-trained regarding ladder safety.

Best Practices

- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations when installing a cable tray on a supporting structure.
- Ensure that the correct anchors are used and that the supporting structures are adequate when installing a cable tray.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and any hazards that may be present.
- Properly position ladders used to reach elevated areas.