



Fall Prevention

## eSafetyLine

### **Case Study #1**

OSHA has a hard and fast rule that anyone working at a height of 6 feet or greater must have some type of fall protection. There is a very good reason for it: people get hurt. This case study illustrates the need.

At about 7:30 am a worker was working on scaffolding at an elevation of approximately 8 ft while installing brackets into a wooden beam. The scaffolding system lacked a guardrail system. The worker's manager saw him turn around to talk to a coworker, fall and strike the cross bracing of the scaffolding with his head and left shoulder before hitting the ground. The manager called emergency medical services. The employee sustained both head and brain trauma injuries. Emergency medical services transported the employee to the local emergency room. He was then transferred to a larger hospital for surgery and treatment. The employee was eventually released from the hospital.

Luckily this employee was able to return to work but many individuals are not so fortunate. What went wrong in this situation? Although it was only an 8 foot fall, this employee could have died. The most obvious issue is that fact that the scaffolding had NO guardrails in place.

This incident could have been prevented in one of three ways:

- Not using this scaffold because there are no guardrails in place
- Using this scaffold after putting guardrails where they belong
- Using this scaffold as is but using a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) instead of the guardrails.

Any one of these solutions would have kept the employee safe, prevented the injury and allowed the job to be completed. Another benefit would be to prevent a citation from OSHA for not providing fall protection while working on a scaffold.

## **Discussion Questions**

What was the major factor contributing to this accident?

What could have been done to prevent it?

# MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Safety Coordinator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date