

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: September 30, 2001

Construction Industry

A construction worker died from crushing injuries as a result of being pinned underneath a five ton I-Beam.

Description of Accident: The victim was underneath a building assisting with the placement of an I-beam in preparation for moving the building to another location. The I-beam had been passed underneath the building with one end placed on a tree stump and the other end on top of a lifting bag filled with air. The victim and two other workers were underneath the building preparing to shore up the I-beam. Apparently, the tree stump was not able to handle the load and gave way, causing the I-beam to tip over on its side. The I-beam rotated to the side, fell off of the air bag and destroyed the tree stump. The I-beam tipped over in the direction of the victim and crushed him underneath.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Construction crews should ensure that I-beams are properly supported using approved methods and/or devices.
- Shoring should be done in such a way that crew members are not put at risk in the event that the I-beam should collapse.
- Workers should maintain a safe distance from heavy objects during hoisting operations.
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.