

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: November 14, 2001

Construction Industry

An iron worker died as a result of a fall from an iron roof truss to the ground below.

Description of Accident: The victim was transiting from one location to another along a portion of the construction project where decking had not yet been laid. The safety tie-off line was removed the day before along the path he normally took to his worksite, so that decking could be put down. The victim was given an alternate route to take that had safety lines in place, but he decided to take the faster, unprotected route. The victim was found dead on the ground below. He was wearing a full body harness and lanyard but had taken a route to his work area that did not have safety lines to hook up to. As a result, the safety equipment was not able to arrest his fall.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The employee failed to follow the directions he was given in order to transit to his work site safely. He should have used the route that had a safety line installed.
- Safety should not be sacrificed in order to save time or ease of travel.
- 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.