

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: October 30, 2004

Construction Industry

A construction worker attempted to drag a piece of decking across a joist and an 8" thick wall; he lost his balance, fell 21 feet to the first floor.

Description of Accident: While installing corrugated steel decking at a construction site, a construction worker attempted to drag a piece of decking across a joist and an 8" thick wall. Losing his balance, he fell 21 feet to the first floor. The construction worker died during surgery as a result of the injuries sustained during the fall. This individual was not wearing fall protection equipment.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Each employee on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet or more above the lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of a guardrail system, safety net system or personal fall arrest system.
- Employees exposed to fall hazards must be trained and use the correct personal protective equipment and the employer should have a written program to communicate expectations and provide discipline for employees who do not comply.
- The employer is encouraged to maintain a safety monitoring system.
- 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.