

### **30 Fall from I-beam – Inspection #1267346**

A **27 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell a distance of 15 feet 3 inches from an I-beam of an engineered steel building being constructed. The company had been contacted to install a new steel building. On the morning of the incident, three employees began installing the purlins to the rafters of the building and they installed a new plate on the jack beam in the middle of the building. The employees took a lunch break around 11:30am. After their lunch break, the employees went back to installing the purlins. The investigation revealed that the victim and another employee climbed onto the rafters using a step ladder to continue installing purlins. Both the employees got into position and sat down on I-beams. Next, they stood the purlin upright and aligned the bolt holes with a spud wrench. As the first bolt and nut was being installed, the purlin shook. The employee noticed that the victim was slumped over and began to fall toward the ground. Since the beginning of the project, 45 purlins had been installed by the employees. The victim fell from the rafter while in process of installing the 46<sup>th</sup> purlin. The TOSHA investigation concluded that employees were conducting steel erection work at a height of 15 feet 3 inches without being protected from a fall nor had adequate fall protection training been provided.

#### **Citation(s) as Originally Issued**

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

#### **Citation 1 Item 1a**

29 CFR 1926.760(a)(1)	<p><b>Each employee engaged in steel erection activity that is on a walking working surface with an unprotected side or edge more than 15 feet above a lower level was not protected from fall hazards by guardrail systems, safety nets systems, personal fall arrest systems, positioning device systems, or fall restraint systems.</b></p> <p>In that employees erecting the engineered steel building were not protected from falling when working above 15 feet. An employee was fatally injured when he fell approximately 15 feet 3 inches to the concrete floor below.</p>
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#### **Citation 1 Item 1b**

29 CFR 1926.761(b)	<p><b>The employer did not train each employee exposed to a fall hazard in accordance with the requirements of this section. The employer did not institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program.</b></p> <p>In that employees had not been adequately trained by the employer in recognition of fall hazards and how to minimize the hazards when conducting steel erection work.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 2**

29 CFR 1926.50(c)

**A person who has a valid certificate of first-aid training was not available at the work-site to render first-aid.**

In that no one working at the construction site had a valid certification in First Aid.



Photo 1 of 1 – Area circled is where the victim was working when he fell.



Photo 1 of 1 – Photo shows a view of the steel building where the employees were working the incident occurred.