

Occupational Fatalities Investigated
by ADOSH
April 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006

- An employee was crushed by a front end loader when it rolled down the side of a hill.
- An employee fell approximately 20 feet from a scaffold.
- An employee working in a new pool was crushed by a skid loader that fell in on him from the deck.
- An employee was crushed by a pavement roller when it overturned.
- An tree trimmer was electrocuted when he touched an overhead electrical line while descending a palm tree.
- An tree trimmer was electrocuted when he grabbed onto a palm frond that had fallen onto an overhead line.
- An employee fell approximately 17 feet during roof deck installation.
- An employee fell approximately 12 feet while setting trusses on a new home.
- An employee was struck by a length of pipe during an attempt to remove it from a drilling rig.
- An employee was struck by a framed wall when it collapsed.

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Phoenix, AZ 85007

ADOSH ADVOCATE

Improving Workplace Safety and Health



<http://www.ica.state.az.us>

Darin Perkins, Director

Fall 2006

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Another Trenching Death

ADOSH responded to two trenching accidents during the month of July. Unfortunately, one of the incidents resulted in the death of an employee when he was buried in the trench. In the second accident, the employee was more fortunate and will be ok. It has been a number of years since we've had a trenching death in Arizona.

Although we frequently talk about the importance of trench safety, it seems like it is never enough. We continually find sites where excavations have not been shored or sloped properly, if at all. We continue to find excavations without shoring or trench boxes in use. We continue to find employees who have not



Site of recent fatality

received any training on safe trenching practices. We continue to find contractors who are not conducting regular inspections of their excavations to ensure employee safety. Every now and then, the excavation that everyone "thought" was safe, or that everyone felt was sloped properly or benched according to requirements, collapses. Sadly that collapse sometimes results in catastrophic consequences.

The OSHA trenching standards have been around for many years. They have undergone some revisions during that time, but they have always required that employers provide some

type of protective system, based upon soil conditions and other factors, to prevent collapse of the excavation sidewalls.

Because these requirements have been in effect for so long and because of the extent to which excavation accidents and fatalities are publicized, it is incredulous to think that some excavations are still not shored or sloped properly and that some employees are still placed in situations where they are risking their lives to earn a few dollars.

Even though ADOSH and many other employers and organizations have preached

the same message for many years, it is worth repeating:

PROTECT YOUR EXCAVATIONS!

There really is no excuse for failing to do so. If you are unsure of the OSHA requirements, or are unsure how to provide protection in a particular situation, there are many, many knowledgeable individuals and organizations, in addition to the ADOSH consultants, who are ready and willing to help.

Darin Perkins, Director

Fatal Mistakes

A great many of the fatal accidents that occur in the State of Arizona are the result of falls from an elevated work surface. Falls from building structure as a building is being erected, falls from scaffolding intended to provide a safe elevated work surface, and falls from ladders account for the most fatal falls. These falls occur in most cases because of employee carelessness and lax first line supervision.

A specific case involved an employee of a framing company that normally performs commercial carpentry work and is familiar with the fall protection requirements contained in 29 CFR 1926.500, also known as Subpart M, Fall Protection. The employees of this company were setting Glu-lam wood beams at a retail shopping plaza under construction. One pair of employees was working each end of the beam, securing it in place as it was held up by another employee using a fork lift. There was some difficulty experienced at one end of the beam, and an employee later claimed the Glu-lam beam was too short. The employees from the opposite end of the beam elected to "walk the beam" over to the other employees experiencing the difficulties to help out.

After a brief struggle, the beam was properly secured, and the employees from the opposite end of the beam returned. One walked along the top of the beam towards their original position. The other walked a perimeter ledger beam to their original position. The employee who walked the Glu-lam beam fell nearly 17' to the concrete floor below. No one saw him fall and there was no call out for help, or yell by the employee who fell. The other employees heard the impact noise when he struck the concrete. The employee who fell died of his injuries.

The employees had not received fall protection training, but each had personal fall protection gear in the truck. The foreman had not directed the use of fall protection for this job because he also had no training. The company had no specific fall protection policy or training program, and provided fall protection equipment for the employees to use "voluntarily." Obviously this lack of a program and training contributed heavily to this employee's death.

The company had a generic safety policy which stated that all employees working above an elevation of 6' from the next lower level were required to be protected from falls by a guardrail system, a safety net system or a personal fall arrest system. This policy was apparently lip service as it was not enforced.

Management failed the employees by not having a fall protection plan, not training the employees in fall protection and not enforcing their existing safety program. The employees failed by not learning about fall protection equipment issued by the company and not using the equipment that they carried in the work trucks. The company ultimately paid a penalty of \$33,600 as a result of the citation issued following ADOSH's investigation. The employee who failed to use the fall protection harness and lanyard, paid a much heavier penalty. He was 32 years old when he lost his life. Also, assuming he had worked to full retirement at age 67, he could have earned an estimated \$2.7 million or more during those lost years of his working life.

A tightened supervision level, a written fall protection plan, fall protection training and employee attention to appropriate safe work habits are easy, comparatively inexpensive and necessary fixes to the problems illustrated here. The fines to the company were insignificant when compared to the instantaneous loss of life and earning power suffered by the accident victim and his family.

Ernie Miller, Safety Consultant

SHARP Update

ADOSH welcomes the newest members to the SHARP family: Falcon Power Operating Co. dba Yuma Cogeneration Associates (Yuma), and Insulfoam (Phoenix). Additionally, Waste Management of Arizona, City of Goodyear, Waste Management of Northwest Regional Landfill, Arizona Endoscopy Center. LLC,



Mesquite Power, LLC, Tube Service Company and A-Alyesh Chiropractic obtained a recertification as SHARP employers.

Information on the SHARP or other recognition programs can be obtained by contacting either ADOSH consultation office.

ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

Registration for each class begins 30 days prior to the date of the class. Location and time will be provided at the time of registration. ADOSH classes are free of charge but are subject to change or cancellation without notice. If you have a question about whether a class will be held, contact the appropriate trainer for clarification.

Date	Class	Location	Trainer	Phone number
October 3	Machine Guarding	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
October 4	Noise/Hearing Conservation	Phoenix ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 4	Electrical Safety	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
October 5	Hazard Communication	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
October 10	Lockout/Tagout	Avondale	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
October 11	Excavation Safety	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
October 11	Back Injury Prevention	Phoenix	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 12	Back Injury Prevention	Tucson ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 12	Asbestos Awareness	Tucson ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 12	Lockout/Tagout	Mesa	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
October 18	Back Injury Prevention	Yuma	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 19	Bloodborne Pathogens	Yuma	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 24	Confined Space Entry	Peoria	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 24	Lockout/Tagout	Peoria	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
October 25	Ergonomics/Back Injury Prev.	Flagstaff	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
October 26	Safety Management	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
October 31	Excavation Safety	Phoenix ICA	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 1	OSHA Recordkeeping	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
November 2	Hazard Communication	Mesa	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 8	Scaffold Safety	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
November 8	OSHA in the Medical Office	Phoenix ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 8	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 9	Back Injury Prevention	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
November 9	Back Injury Prevention	Avondale	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 15	Hazard Communication	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
November 16	Hazard Communication	Yuma	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 16	Haz. Communication (Spanish)	Yuma	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 16	OSHA Recordkeeping	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 16	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 16	Yuma Safety Day Expo	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 21	Electrical Safety	Peoria	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 22	Hand & Power Tool Safety	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
November 28	Excavation Safety	Phoenix ICA	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
November 29	Noise/Hearing Conservation	Prescott	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
November 30	Personal Protective Equip.	Flagstaff	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
December 5	Forklift Safety	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
December 6	Respiratory Protection	Phoenix ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
December 6	Excavation Safety	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
December 8	Electrical Safety	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
December 12	OSHA in the Medical Office	Tucson ICA	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
December 13	Safety Management	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
December 13	Scaffold Safety	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
December 14	Hand and Power Tool Safety	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
December 19	OSHA Recordkeeping	Phoenix ICA	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
December 19	Hazard Communication	Peoria	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640

Trainers may be contacted by e-mail by using the following format: <lastname>.<firstname>@dol.gov

All Tucson classes are held at the Tucson ICA Building located at 2675 E. Broadway Rd.

Phoenix ICA classes are located at 800 W. Washington St.