

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITY REPORT

Fall Protection

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Bureau of Labor Standards
Research and Statistics Unit
Maine Department of Labor
45 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0045

SafetyWorks!, a program of the Maine Department of Labor, provides free training and consultations on workplace safety and health issues such as the one described inside. For more information, call toll-free **1-877-SAFE-345**.

Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance

The Research and Statistics Unit generates work-related injury and illness statistics. It provides annual counts, case characteristics and incidence rates of fatal and non-fatal injury and illness. The annual counts and case characteristics data are generated from the Employer's First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease submitted to the Maine Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) while incidence rates and fatal cases are derived from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injury and Illness (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) respectively.

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards

OFR 0107

Two Maine Workers Killed from Work-Related Falls

Incident # 1

On October 18, 2006, a worker sustained head injury when he fell four feet off a flatbed trailer. The worker was loading a flatbed trailer with insulation material at the end of the job.

The worker died from his injuries on February 4, 2007.

The cause of the accident was not witnessed by a co-worker who found the injured worker



unconscious and bleeding from the ear.

Incident # 2

On April 23, 2007, a worker was injured while repairing a building on a ladder. The ladder moved and caused the worker to fall 20 feet to the ground. The worker died from his injuries on May 1, 2007.



Fatality Data

Nationally, each year since 2000, about 766 workers have been killed on the job due to falls. About 124 were killed falling off ladders while 69 workers died from injuries due to fall from non-moving vehicles.

Regulations and Standards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) addresses fall protection and ladder safety in 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) with the following standards:

29 CFR: Standards Number 1926.501: Duty to have fall protection.

29 CFR: Standards Number 1910.25: Portable wood ladders.

29 CFR: Standards Number 1910.26: Portable metal ladders.

Other hazards that are not covered by specific standards are afforded protection under Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act, often referred to as the General Duty Clause. The General Duty Clause requires employers to “furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.”

Fall Protection Resources

Any time a worker is at a height of four feet or more, the worker is at risk and needs to be protected. Fall protection must be provided at four feet in general industry, five feet in maritime and six feet in construction.

To request for a free and confidential on-site consultation on fall protection, call SafetyWorks! toll-free at 1-877-SAFE-345 (1-877-723-3345) or complete an online request form.

www.safetyworksmaine.com/consultations/

Additional information and resources on fall protection is available at:

www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/recognition.html

Table 1: Fatal Falls (National CFOI)

| Year/Event | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All Falls | 734 | 810 | 719 | 696 | 822 | 770 | 809 |
| Fall from Ladders | 110 | 123 | 126 | 114 | 135 | 129 | 129 |
| Falls from Non-Moving Vehicles | 61 | 58 | 60 | 69 | 84 | 75 | 77 |

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Each year since 2000, an average of 846 work-related falls were reported to the Maine Workers' Compensation Board. Nationally, an average of 273,792 workers lost at least one day from work beyond the day of their injuries from falls. About 23,798 workers were hurt falling off ladders while 15,327 workers were injured falling off non-moving vehicles.

Table 2: Non-Fatal Injuries Involving Days Away From Work (National SOII)

| Year/Event | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| All Falls | 303,817 | 288,500 | 272,988 | 266,100 | 255,600 | 255,750 | N/A |
| Fall from Ladders | 24,930 | 25,203 | 24,086 | 22,130 | 22,140 | 24,300 | N/A |
| Falls from Non-Moving Vehicles | 15,510 | 16,852 | 15,642 | 15,650 | 14,810 | 13,500 | N/A |

Data Source: Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)