

FALL PREVENTION SYSTEMS LESSON LEARNED: THREE FALLS



WORKER PROFILE

- ▶ Interior/exterior drywall and masonry workers
- ▶ Carpenter



SOURCE AND TYPE OF INJURY

Two of these falls resulted in long-term, life-altering injuries and one fall resulted in a fatality.

MORE DETAILS

- ▶ In these incidents, the distance of the falls ranged from four feet to over 50 feet.
- ▶ There was an issue with the personal fall arrest system (PFAS) in all three incidents.
 - » One individual was not wearing a PFAS.
 - » One individual wore a PFAS that was not connected.
 - » One individual wore a PFAS that failed to operate due to improper use.
- ▶ While all three of these falls were different, there are a few issues that tie the losses together.
 - » The provided scaffolding did not protect the employees in a way that was anticipated, expected and deserved.
 - » Management was not properly trained to set up, inspect or intervene when equipment was being used improperly.



LESSON LEARNED

It's easy and common for organizations to believe an injured worker caused an accident. Organizations with strong management commitment to safety will dig deeper to determine the cause of the injury. In instances such as those described above, they'll ask questions such as:

- ▶ What processes failed, allowing the individual to ignore the directions for safety harness use, resulting in numerous discussions without correction, and eventually loss?
- ▶ What processes failed, allowing the individual to continue to attach their lanyard to improper connection points, ultimately leading to a serious, life-altering injury?
- ▶ What failure in our training process allowed for the assumption that the individual "should have known better" but did not?
- ▶ As a management team, what needs to be done differently to stop this, or similar conditions, in the future?

These three falls could have been avoided with a management culture that was unaccepting of the convergence of hazards that resulted in the falls and subsequent injuries.

To formally evaluate management commitment to safety at your organization, contact your local Amerisure risk management consultant at [800-257-1900](tel:800-257-1900) or riskmanagement@amerisure.com.

For additional fall prevention and safety information, check out our [resources](#).