

- Keep the handle of the screwdriver clean and intact to allow for a solid grip.
- Never hold the piece you are working on in your hand. Always lay it on a workbench or place it in a vice.
- Carry screwdrivers in toolboxes or work belts – never in your pocket. In wood and sheet metal, make a pilot hole for the screw.
- Never use a screwdriver during electrical work unless it is properly insulated.

Don't blow it on torch safety

Misuse or improper handling of oxygen-acetylene torches can lead to serious property damage, injury and even death. The Mine Safety and Health Administration recommends taking the following precautions when using an oxygen-acetylene torch:

- Prior to use, inspect all hoses, gauges, regulators and torches, and replace or repair any defective parts.
- Make sure the torch is equipped with a flow check gauge.
- Properly train all employees who will be using the torch.
- Keep combustible materials away from the area where the torch will be used.
- Install a flash arrestor at both ends of the hose.
- Verify the adjusting screw is closed by turning it counterclockwise before opening the cylinder valve.
- Open cylinder valves slowly, and do not stand in front of the regulator while doing so.
- Never compress acetylene above 15 psig.
- Purge oxygen and acetylene lines individually before lighting the torch.
- Light acetylene before opening the oxygen line.

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FACEValue

NIOSH's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Reports

#08CA001

Date of incident: Dec. 26, 2007

MAINTENANCE WORKER KILLED IN ROOF FALL

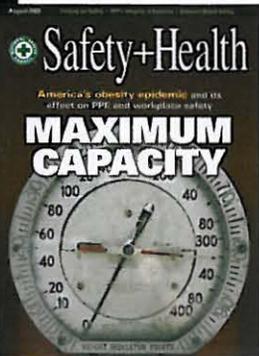
A 42-year-old maintenance worker was killed after he fell approximately 40 feet from the roof of a three-story apartment building. At the time of the incident the victim was working alone, repairing a leak in the roof. The worker had been employed by a property management company for 14 months. The company did not provide any formal safety training to its employees, held no safety meetings, and had no written injury and illness prevention program. The victim was working on a flat roof with a central opening to the patio below. No warning lines or guardrails surrounded the opening. The area with the leak was located about 35 feet away from any unprotected roof edge. The worker was not using any type of fall protection system. It is unknown exactly what task the worker was performing at the time of the incident. A tenant of the building heard him walking on the roof and shortly thereafter heard a loud thumping noise. Tenants saw the worker lying on the cement patio and notified the building manager, who called emergency services. The worker was declared dead at the scene.



TO PREVENT FUTURE OCCURRENCES:

- ✓ **Ensure fall protection is used when workers are performing rooftop repairs.** The victim in this case was working on a three-story roof without fall protection. Had fall protection been provided, the accident could have been avoided or the worker's injuries may have been less severe. Fall protection options include guardrails, safety nets and personal fall protection systems, such as harnesses. Because the roof in this incident was flat, warning lines also could have been used.
- ✓ **Develop and implement a safety training program for employees.** The company involved in this incident had no safety or training programs in place for employees. Documented training and an injury and illness prevention program have been proven to help employees receive and understand all necessary safety information. An effective injury and illness prevention program should include the following:
 - Names of people with the authority and responsibility to implement an injury and illness prevention program
 - A system for ensuring employees comply with safe work practices
 - A system for communicating with employees in a manner that is readily understandable, including provisions to encourage employees to inform the employer of any workplace hazards without fear of reprisal

Plus To access the full report, go to www.nsc.org/plus



Safety+Health



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Vol. 180, No. 2

FEATURES

34 Integrity in question
GAO report prompts OSHA to evaluate its Voluntary Protection Programs
By Kyle W. Morrison

36 Lots of safety
Take steps to keep parking areas hazard-free
By Kyle W. Morrison

42 Maximum capacity
America's obesity epidemic and its effect on PPE and workplace safety
By Kyle W. Morrison

46 Behavior-based safety: A study of pros and cons
Approach divides worker safety advocates
By Marvin V. Greene



34



36



46

Safety+Health
Plus

These extras and more available this month on www.nsc.org/plus:

- ☞ Check out CDC's new obesity page.
- ☞ Read comments on OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs.