

FATALGRAM 12-03

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of Incident: March 5, 2012

Industry: Industrial Building Construction

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Description of Accident: On March 5, 2012, a 47-year-old pipefitter fell approximately 17 feet from an elevated platform while taking measurements on the second floor of a steam generator plant that was under construction at a new electric power plant. The employee fell through the grating, which had one panel removed to allow piping to be hoisted to the upper levels. The victim was wearing a harness with two lanyards but both were attached to the harness at the time of the fall. The victim was transported to the local hospital where he died the following day.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Guard every floor hole into which a worker can accidentally walk (using a railing and toe-board or a floor hole cover).
- Provide a guardrail and toe-board around every elevated open sided platform, floor or runway.
- Regardless of height, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment (such as a vat of acid or a conveyor belt) employers must provide guardrails and toe-boards to prevent workers from falling and getting injured.
- Other means of fall protection that may be required on certain jobs include safety harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and hand rails.
- Provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards.