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Engineering and Support Center,
Huntsville

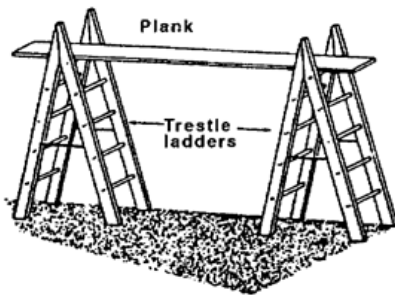
Safety Office

Mishap Lessons Learned



Subject: Fall from Trestle Ladder Scaffold

Event: A worker hanging drywall was working off of a trestle ladder scaffold when the plank he was walking on suddenly broke. He fell approximately 4.5 feet to the ground and dislocated his right ankle. The mishap resulted in 30 days of lost time and an anticipated 30 days of restricted duty.



Root Cause: Root causes for this accident could include working on notched, cracked, or otherwise compromised wooden plank or overloading the walking planks capacity. Inspections were not documented so it is difficult to determine the condition of the planks. The use of this scaffold was not covered in the approved AHA or added in with pen & ink changes. Anticipated hazards associated with the use of this scaffold were not discussed with the workers nor were any controls documented to be in place to mitigate these hazard and the scaffolding competent persons credentials were never reviewed and approved.

Lessons Learned:

1. AHAs must cover all of the equipment to be used, the hazards posed when using it, and the controls put in place by the Prime Contractor to mitigate those hazards (EM 385-1-1, Section



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- 01.A.14). Each AHA must identify the Competent Persons and qualifications for each activity and the AHA should clearly discuss the capacity of the scaffold system and inspection requirements. Scaffolding AHAs have specific requirements (EM 385-1-1, Section 22.B.01)
2. All scaffolds and their components **MUST** be inspected prior to each shift, prior to use after dismantling and re-erecting, and after any mishap or near miss. The inspections **MUST** be document in daily safety inspection reports and on a tag attached to the scaffold.(EM 385-1-1, Section 22.B.03 & 05)
 3. Workers on a scaffold **MUST** be trained in how to use the platform safely. Competent Person training requirements are listed in EM 385-1-1, Section 22.B.02 and training for all others involved with the scaffold is discussed in Section 22.B.06.