

Incident Sharing

CONTRACTOR'S FALL IN COOLING TOWER TOWER ARRESTED BY FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

On March 23, 2009, a subcontractor slipped and fell while working at an elevation of twelve feet inside a cooling tower. The individual's fall was arrested by his self-retracting lanyard (SRL). The incident resulted in a minor first aid injury, contusion to the left shoulder.

Investigation Findings:

- At the time of the incident the worker was working on double 2x4 horizontal rafters that support the internals of the cooling tower. The worker stated that the 2x4 was slippery due to algae.
- The worker slipped from the 2x4's and fell toward the bottom of the cooling tower.
- The contractor was wearing the proper fall protection equipment – an SRL - since the clear space below the work area was less than 18.5 feet, and it saved him from serious injury.
- The worker was tied off to a proper anchor point, e.g. the intersection of the 4x4's and 2x4's (see photo).



Corrective Actions:

- Evaluate all work platforms for hazards including wet, slick conditions. These hazards are to be immediately mitigated before allowing work to begin.
- Workers must be provided a suitable work platform of at least 18" in width while performing elevated work in all cooling towers. The platform material should consist of slip resistant material, e.g. metal scaffold planks.

Incident Sharing

FALL FROM HEIGHT **ARRESTED BY FALL PROTECTION** **EQUIPMENT**

Incident Description:

A contractor was working at an elevation of approximately 10 feet, 4 inches. In the process of relocating, the contractor fell. The contractor was “caught” by his fall arrest system and was uninjured. The contractor was utilizing the appropriate PPE – an SRL – and was tied off to an appropriate anchor point (I-beam).

