

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Contractor/Fall from Height

A team of contractors was working on the roof of a shed, removing skylights and replacing them with tin panels. While reaching forward to grab pieces of skylight, one of the contractors lost his footing and fell through the opening.

The contractor fell about 10 feet before his self-retracting lifeline (SRL) engaged, causing him to swing into nearby packs of lumber. The other contractors on the roof were able to manually lower him to the ground and called emergency services. The contractor had hit his head, bit his tongue, and sustained some abdominal swelling. He was airlifted for medical treatment and kept overnight for observation.

Fortunately, the contractor was not seriously injured and has since returned to full duties.

Prior to the work beginning, a contractor representative did complete a Work Authorizing Hazard Risk Assessment and a rescue plan was in place for the job.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Immediately conduct an investigation to confirm whether the contractor was using a fall restraint system instead of a fall arrest system
- Have a discussion with the team and contractors about using the correct fall protection system and following the proper hierarchy of controls when planning work at heights.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Revise current employee and contractor training programs to include using the proper hierarchy of controls to determine the correct fall protection for the job at hand.

