

## Worker Fatality Alert

January 2009

### Worker Falls from Roof While Tenting a House

#### Prevention Points

- Fumigation companies should be aware of fall hazards to workers
- Fall safety prevention programs include personal fall protection, training and other measures

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (CA/FACE) program identifies and studies conditions that lead to fatal injuries at work, and develops prevention recommendations for employers and employees. CA/FACE is investigating another death of a roof man for a structural fumigation company who died after falling from a roof. A similar case (98CA002) was investigated in 1998 and also happened when a worker fell off a roof while putting up a tarp. In the most recent death, the victim slipped on roof tiles while carrying a tarp, and then fell two stories to the ground below.



**A roof man is taking a tarp off a roof without fall protection [Note - this is not the actual worksite or victim in this case]**

The employee was born in Mexico, and had more than 10 years of experience working for structural fumigation companies. He was the only provider for his wife and two children who live in Mexico.

Fumigation companies should be aware that workers who tent buildings can be seriously injured or die from a fall if their ladders shift, they are pulled off balance by the tarps, or they slip off roofs. Companies that fumigate buildings should have an injury and illness prevention program (IIPP) that includes

- Employee personal fall protection, and
- Training about fall hazards

In addition, employers should consider:

- Providing employees with non-skid boots or shoes that can prevent sliding
- Securing ladders to prevent movement
- Using boom lifts or scaffolds to lift and secure tarps

Some useful tools to get started on a fall prevention program have been provided by one large fumigation company (below). **These are provided as an example and have not been endorsed by the California Department of Public Health.**

Fumigation and fall protection checklist [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Documents/Fumigation-Checklist.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Documents/Fumigation-Checklist.pdf)  
Job safety analysis [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Documents/Fumigation-JSA.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Documents/Fumigation-JSA.pdf)

For more information about fall protection and purchasing safety equipment, you can also contact Tabitha Laser, Chair, Pest Control Operators of California & Cal/OSHA Advisory Committee (TEL 818-674-8109).

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A complete investigation of this incident is underway by the CA/FACE program. The final report will be available at [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Pages/FACEReports.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face/Pages/FACEReports.aspx)

The **Occupational Health Branch** [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb) is a program in the California Department of Public Health devoted to improving worker health and safety through prevention activities.