



SOLAR PANEL INSTALLER FALLS OFF ROOF!

A 30-year-old solar panel installer, Richard P.* died after he fell 45 feet off the roof of a three-story apartment building. He was part of a three-man crew working to install solar panels on a sloped roof. Richard walked backward and stepped off the roof while checking the position of some brackets. No one was wearing personal fall protection equipment and there was no other fall protection system in place.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Richard was not wearing personal fall protection equipment.

The worksite safety plan for this project included the use of personal fall protection, but it was not used.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Make sure personal fall protection or other fall protection systems are used by solar energy workers on roofs sloped greater than 30 degrees or which have other fall hazards..

Make sure worksite safety plans are implemented. This can be accomplished through supervision and training.

References:

http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/ConstGuide8x11Online.pdf (See Section on Fall Protection p. 25-27)

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For a complete report of this (10CA003) or other cases, and information on the California FACE Program, contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
OHB phone: (510) 620-5757
CA Relay Service: 711

Please allow at least ten working days to produce this document in an alternate format.

Visit our website at: www.cdph.ca.gov/face

* Not the victim's real name

PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the FACE program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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