



June 2002

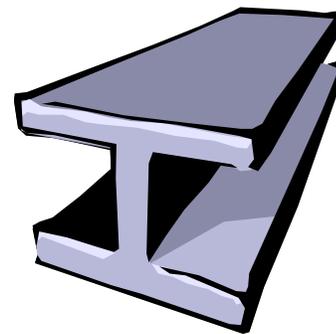
ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

A 14-year-old laborer crushed under 5-ton beam

On September 30, 2001, a 14-year-old male laborer died when he was crushed under a 5-ton beam. The victim was working with two co-workers under a structure that had been moved several months earlier and was resting on supports and cross members until a new foundation could be built. One of two beams had been positioned under the building. The beams were to be used to lift the entire structure so that a concrete block foundation could be built. The victim and the other workers were lifting the beam with an airbag. They had completed the first lift without any problems and had begun with the second lift. The victim was kneeling next to the beam when the beam rolled off the airbag and on top of his back. The victim was pinned against the ground by the beam. The company owner heard the other workers call for help. They repositioned the airbag and lifted the beam. Once the victim was moved from under the beam, emergency medical services were called. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead from his injuries. Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Conduct a site inspection prior to beginning any work to identify and abate potential hazards present in and around the immediate worksite, and take appropriate steps to assess and modify work practices prior to beginning of work activities;**
- **Develop a comprehensive safety program that includes job hazard analyses;**
- **Review all tasks assigned to youth and ensure they are appropriate for their age and that they are properly trained to perform these tasks;**
- **Parents should discuss the type of work their children will be performing and become knowledgeable of tasks that are prohibited for minors.**



To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us

