



August 1992

ALASKA FACE Facts

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

Rofer Dies in 16-Foot Fall From Residential Roof

A 31-year-old male journeyman roofer (the victim) sustained severe head injuries and died as a result of a 16-foot fall from the roof of a two-story single family dwelling. The victim was correcting a cosmetic error in the alignment of the shingle tabs of roofing shingles installed 2 weeks earlier. He fell (unobserved) from the second-story roof of the residence onto a concrete patio. The roof pitch was 4:12 (4 feet vertical rise to 12 feet horizontal width). The victim had a documented history of grand mal epileptic seizures, and had received a prescription for a maintenance dose of Dilantin. Although he presented a medical clearance to his employer allowing him to work (flat roofs only), it remains unclear whether his pre-existing medical condition predisposed him to this incident or affected its outcome. NIOSH and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) investigators concluded that, in order to prevent future similar occurrences, employers should:

- **ensure that workers with medical conditions or physical limitations are not placed in work situations disallowed by medical certifications**
- **comply with existing State regulations regarding fall protection for workers exposed to fall hazards**
- **develop and implement formal safety programs designed to help workers recognize, understand and control fall hazards and other work hazards.**



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:
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