



# SAFETY ALERT # 15



July 7th, 2006

*In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

## What Happened



### ***Glazing contractor critically injured when window assembly falls***

*A glazing contractor was adjusting a 4.5'x11' glass panel assembly on the 7th floor of a building. There were two workers (also glazers) in a scissor lift on the first floor directly below the glass assembly.*

*During the adjustment of the glass assembly, the assembly dislodged and fell down landing in the scissor lift critically injuring one of the workers in the scissor lift below.*

*The worker sustained a fractured skull, facial fractures, internal injuries, broken ribs, multiple*

*fractures in his leg, a broken arm and numerous lacerations from the glass. He is now in serious condition and will be in the hospital for quite a while.*

*Previously the contractor working above had communicated with the other contractors below. Because they were just "making adjustments" to the window assembly they felt that they did not need to communicate to the crew below. The assembly was installed using a manipulator (crane), however since the workers did not expect the unit to fall the manipulator was not used.*



**Applicable Standards** Since this accident occurred in Washington DC OSHA standards apply. Both proposed citations are general in nature.

**1926.32(f)** "Competent person" means one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

**1926.20(a)(1)**

Section 107 of the Act requires that it shall be a condition of each contract which is entered into under legislation subject to Reorganization Plan Number 14 of

1950 (64 Stat. 1267), as defined in 1926.12, and is for construction, alteration, and/or repair, including painting and decorating, that no contractor or subcontractor for any part of the contract work shall require

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any laborer or mechanic employed in the performance of the contract to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to his health or safety.

### **Prevention**

- When contractors are working at heights, the area below must be cordoned off to prevent people below from being struck by falling objects.
- Communication among contractors and workers is critical when we have people working from heights. In this case the communication process that was in place was not followed. We might need to be a part of the coordination process to prevent workers from being below other workers.
- The procedure for installation and adjustments for the glass assembly was not followed as it called for the “manipulator” to be hooked up to the glass assembly until the installation was complete.
- Typically, there should be a spotter on the ground to prevent people from being below the overhead work. In this case there was no spotter.
- A Job Hazard Analysis should have been completed. This process helps us to analyze the task, identify the hazard and determine the control or precautions necessary to perform the task safely.