

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 16 - No 26 FALL ACCIDENT

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

During a routine service call an HVAC technician was troubleshooting a unit. The technician had been working in the above ceiling area or attic crawl space. Despite the name "crawl space" this particular area was large enough to allow the technician to be able to walk upright rather than crawl.

The area is a typical small commercial retail like single story structure constructed of structural steel columns and beams with steel joists and metal decking on the roof. The joists are spaced out at an approximately four (4) to five (5) foot intervals and electrical conduit, alarm and computer wiring also occupy this open space above the ceiling. Unfortunately, when these structures are completed they seldom ever have any LIGHTING fixtures installed. Such was the case for this incident.

As the technician was leaving one work area to examine another area he began to walk (stepping on each joist) across the ceiling. Unfortunately, due to poor (lack of) lighting, the worker did not see a conduit which was run across one of the joists and caused the worker to trip and fall forward through the ceiling tiles and onto the concrete floor below. The worker suffered broken arms and multiple contusions as a result of attempting to "CATCH" himself as he fell.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Always survey your work area prior to commencing work for potential hazards such as but not limited to: LIGHTING, proper foundation for walking and weight capacity, electrical hazards and accessibility.
2. Secure the site from any potential overhead hazards to persons potentially working below your work zone
3. LOCK OUT / TAG OUT precautions!



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