



JOBSITE SAFETY TALK

"ON-SITE TRAINING YIELDS A SAFE, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE"



22-23

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LET'S REVISIT REBAR SAFETY

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An employee was pulling a concrete hose along a form when he fell. The worker hit his head on steel rebar, which punctured his brain.

A laborer fell through a roof opening about 8 feet to a patio foundation that had about 20 half-inch rebars protruding straight up. The laborer was impaled by one of the bars and died.

These two accidents straight from OSHA's files reveal what can happen when steel reinforcing bars, or rebar, are left unguarded.

OSHA requires that rebar "be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement." Be aware that not all guards provide the necessary level of protection. In some cases, the force of a fall can cause rebar to push through a plastic cap and still impale a worker. In other cases, the worker can be impaled by the rebar and cap together.

Only rebar caps designed to provide impalement protection, such as those containing steel reinforcement, should be used.

However, regardless of the type of guarding you use, make sure you always guard the ends of steel rebar where workers are exposed. To increase the level of protection, you can bend the rebar so the exposed ends are no longer upright. Lumber, or similar materials, can also be manufactured to build a continuous cap for an entire row of rebar. Also, remember that when employees are working at any height above exposed rebar, fall prevention and protection are the first lines of defense against impalement.

If you have any additional questions about rebar safety or any aspect of your company's safety program, contact Mark Potnick in the OCA office for assistance.

Date

Company Name

Project #/Name

Meeting Location

Person Conducting Meeting

Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Attendees:

Comments: