



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: TRACY P. MUSTIN
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Sharing Lessons Learned from Savannah River Tele-Tower®
Scaffold Fall Injury Accident

On July 1, 2011, a construction worker fell from a portable Tele-Tower® scaffold from a height up to 11 feet during facility modification work at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The injured construction worker required hospitalization due to head injury and numerous broken ribs. A Department of Energy (DOE) accident investigation (AI) was conducted in accordance with DOE Order 225 1B, *Accident Investigations*. The AI report, *Fall Injury Accident at the Savannah River Site*, August 8, 2011, documents the results of the investigation, including analysis, identification of potential causes, and judgments of need (JONs). This report was provided to your site, Operating Experience (OE) Program coordinators on August 15, 2011, to ensure lessons learned from this accident were quickly shared among our Environmental Management sites.

This memorandum is to formally convey the AI report to you for your evaluation of lessons learned or conditions as they apply to your site operations. The report is at http://www.hss.doe.gov/sesa/corporatesafety/aip/docs/accidents/typea/SRS_Fall_Injury_Report.pdf and is also attached for your convenience (Attachment 1). In addition, there are other DOE OE documents that can provide additional lessons learned on the use of scaffolds to reinforce the conditions/issues from this AI report. I have attached examples from both the Occurrence Reporting and Processing System and from the DOE Lessons Learned database for your use (Attachment 2).

I request that you direct your contractors to evaluate whether any conditions potentially leading to or contributing to the accident at SRS are present in their work activities and, if so, to take appropriate actions. The AI report also notes issues regarding the sufficiency of DOE oversight and safety subject matter experts spending time in the field observing work of this nature. Please perform a self-assessment of your Federal safety oversight activities for the potential of similar issues. Attachment 3 identifies areas for focus for this effort.



Please provide the results of these evaluations to Mr James Hutton (James.Hutton@hq.doe.gov) by December 16, 2011. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or contact Mr Kenneth G. Picha, Jr., Acting Director, Office of Safety Management, at (202) 586-2281.

Attachments

cc: J Craig, CBC
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I Krietz, EM-21
R Goldsmith, EM-22
I Smith, EM-51
J Rhoderick, EM-52