

# FATALGRAM

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: July 14, 2003

**A construction worker died of injuries sustained during a fall that resulted from the improper use of a stepladder and his failure to use proper fall protection gear.**

**Description of Accident:** A construction worker died of injuries sustained during a fall that resulted from the improper use of a stepladder and his failure to use proper fall protection gear. The construction worker was using a stepladder to span a 3-foot gap between two structures. The feet of the stepladder were placed on the floor of one building and the top of the stepladder was placed against the vertical wall of an adjacent building. The victim had just moved his ladder over several feet and was climbing up the ladder when one of the feet of the ladder slipped causing him to fall approximately 20 feet to the ground below. The primary causes of the accident were the improper use of a stepladder, failure to secure the ladder to prevent slippage, and the failure of the victim to wear fall protection.

### **ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A ladder used in structures shall be positively secured to prevent the ladder from being accidentally displaced.
- An employer shall provide and document safety training for each employee exposed to fall hazards and the training shall emphasize the proper use of fall protection systems and ladder usage.
- Train on the correct procedures for erecting, maintaining and disassembling a ladder and proper use, placement and load carrying capacity of a ladder
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.