

**Preliminary Findings into the  
September 8, 2009 Fall from Height at  
South M'Clintock Bay Worksite**

## **PURPOSE:**

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has seen a recent increase in the number of serious injuries resulting from falls from heights. These initial findings are being released to provide information into the direct causes of one these falls. It is hoped that providing this information will encourage others to review these causes and examine their own workplaces to ensure similar conditions either do not exist or, if they do, are immediately corrected.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

On September 8, 2009 at South M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake, a construction company supervisor fell from a roof on which he was working. The supervisor landed on a wooden deck 3.9 metres (12.8 feet) below, causing injuries to his head, ribs and wrist. The roof was constructed from metal with a pitch of 4/12.

The incident happened around 10am and environmental conditions at the time resulted in the additional slipping hazard on the shaded side of the roof. The side of the roof on which he initially stood was completely dry, but when he went over the apex of the roof, he stepped on a wet patch, causing him to slip and fall to the deck below.

The roof on which the supervisor was working had unguarded edges and the supervisor had failed to don either a travel restraint or a fall arrest system (which was available on site).

## **DIRECT CAUSES:**

Preliminary findings indicate that the direct causes of this fall are a result of a worker working on a metal roof with a 4/12 pitch and unguarded edges without using appropriate fall protective equipment. The worker moved from a dry section of roof to a section that had a wet, slippery surface and slipped, resulting in a slide down the metal roof and a fall over the unguarded edge.

## **PREVENTION:**

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board remind all workplace parties that, *prior to commencing any work*, they are required to assess all the hazards that workers must deal with, then design and implement appropriate measures to reduce the risk of injury.

Yukon Occupational Health and Safety Regulation states:

- 10.11** A worker shall be protected by the use of a fall restraint system, a fall arrest system, a control zone, or another system of fall protection acceptable to the director when a worker is engaged in any work on a roof that
- (a) is 3 m (10 ft.) or more above the ground or other safe working level,
  - (b) has a slope of 2 vertical to 3 horizontal or steeper, or
  - (c) has an unguarded edge.

All workers working at heights must be protected by appropriate fall prevention measures, provided with appropriate fall prevention equipment and required to use the fall prevention measures. These measures may include guardrails around the edges from which a worker might fall, travel restraint or fall arrest systems, or any combination thereof.

Workers must follow the appropriate fall prevention measures and must use the fall protection equipment provided by their employer.

Employers are required to develop and implement fall prevention and rescue plans whenever they have workers working at heights.

Employers are also required to provide all workers that work from heights with training in fall prevention techniques, fall prevention systems, use, care and maintenance Personal Protective Equipment, and rescue techniques.