

HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Construction/Electrical

Age: 51 years

Experience: 25 years

Area: Okanagan

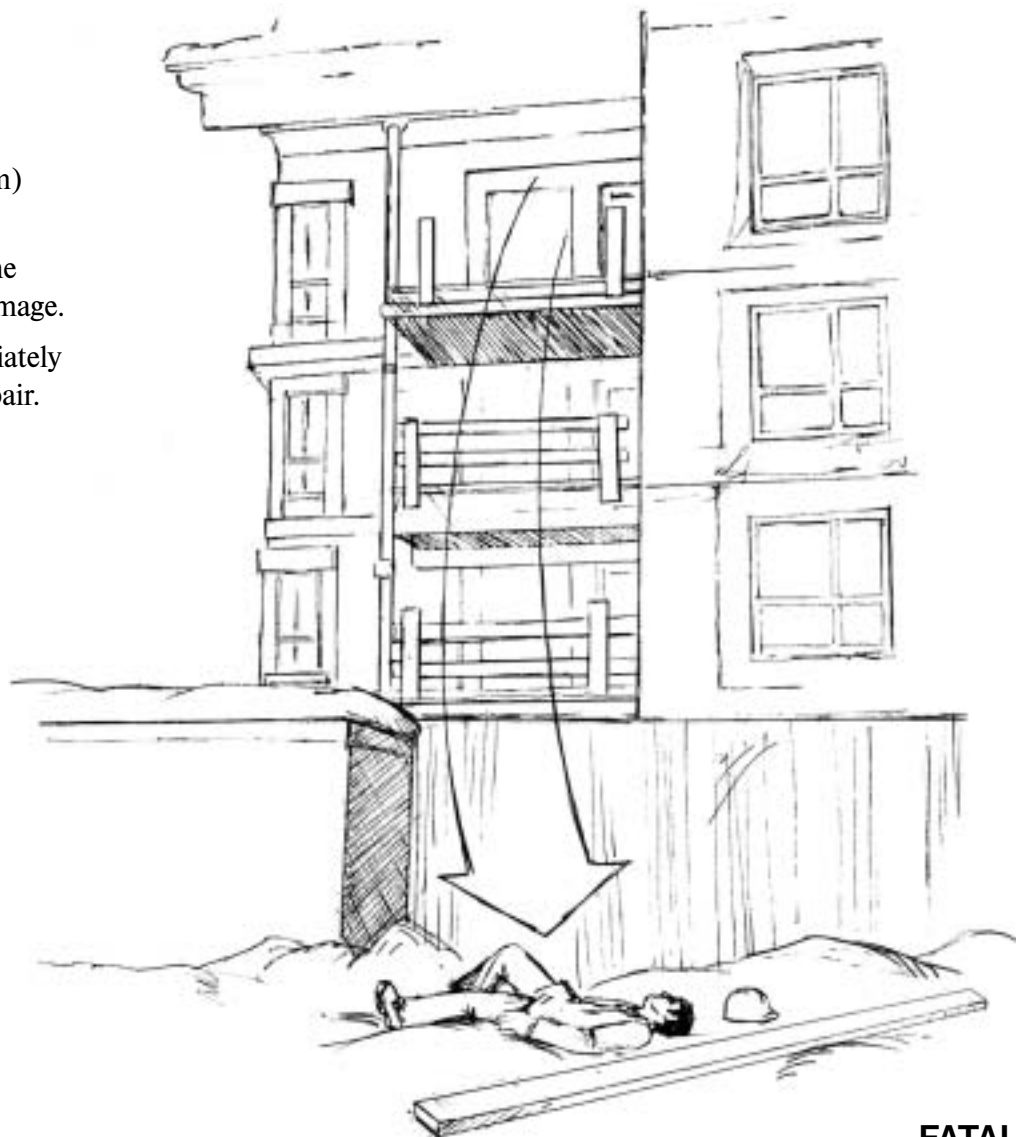
Electrician dies after fall from fourth-floor balcony

A worker fell 11 metres (35 feet) to his death from a fourth-floor balcony. There was a temporary wooden upper guardrail surrounding the balcony, but no middle guardrail.

Earlier in the day, the upper guardrail had been struck when a forklift loaded a pallet of wire up to the fourth-floor balcony. After this incident, the guardrail was not inspected or repaired. When the worker was later loading rolls of wire from the balcony into the building, he may have stumbled into or leaned against the upper guardrail. The upper guardrail was found on the ground close to the worker.

Safe work practices:

- If guardrails are incomplete, an alternative form of fall protection (such as a personal harness system) should be used.
- Guardrails contacted by a machine must be inspected for possible damage.
- Defective guardrails must immediately be reported to a supervisor for repair.
- Defective guardrails must be repaired immediately.
- Workers completing repairs to guardrails must use an alternative form of fall protection.
- A spotter should be used when loads being placed are not visible to the machine operator.
- Railings removed for load access must be replaced when possible.



FATALITY
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