Poor Communication Contributes to Crushing Death



A maintenance mechanic died when he was crushed between an overhead bridge — crane and a light fixture. The incident occurred while the victim was on the — roof of the iron and steel works facility where he worked. A contractor noticed — the victim sitting on the crane rails and tried to alert the crane operator but — it was too late. The crane operator — unaware anyone was on the roof and- watching the load — moved the crane along the overhead rail until it pinned the — victim against a light fixture. He later died from his injuries.

The victim was found on the roof without tools, work orders, measuring — equipment, writing utensils or communication devices. He had been assigned to- work in the tool room that day and both his supervisor and superintendent say — there were no maintenance jobs or requests for work that would have taken him up — to the roof area where he died. If maintenance was required, they say-lockout/tagout procedures would have been implemented.

Communication is key for all worksites, especially those where heavy — equipment is used. Workers put their lives and the lives of others at risk when — they fail to follow health and safety procedures or fail to let others know when- they leave or change job locations.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \textbf{California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) - Program, \ \textbf{Case} \\ \textbf{Report 05CA011}$