Why Reporting Workplace Incidents Matters Fatality File



Unreported Fall Leads to Construction Worker’s Death

In December 2023, Antonio, a day laborer in Houston, Texas, suffered a severe leg injury after stepping on a nail at a construction site. His employer failed to provide immediate medical assistance, leading to a serious infection that required hospitalization. The injury was never reported to OSHA, and Antonio did not receive any compensation. This incident underscores the critical importance of promptly reporting workplace injuries to ensure proper medical care and prevent further harm.

Similarly, in Raleigh, North Carolina, 29-year-old Gabriel Strathern died after falling from a roof while working without fall protection. His employer, Squeaky Clean, failed to report the fatality to OSHA, claiming ignorance of the reporting requirement. The lack of reporting delayed the investigation and accountability process.

These cases highlight the dangers of underreporting workplace incidents. Employers are legally obligated to report fatalities within 8 hours and serious injuries within 24 hours to OSHA. Timely reporting ensures that hazards are addressed, and similar incidents are prevented. Failure to report not only violates legal requirements but also endangers workers’ lives.

Source: *Theguardian.com*