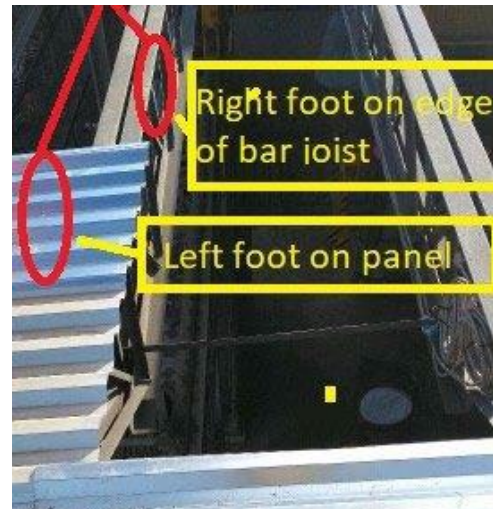


Safety Flash

Incident: Two journeymen ironworkers were installing metal roof panels on a 130-foot, low sloped roof. The ironworkers slid the 13-foot 6-inch by 3-foot metal panel along the 8-inch wide joists while walking backwards on the joists.

When lowering the panel into position, one of the ironworkers placed his left foot on the previously installed panel. When he moved his right foot onto what he thought was the panel, he actually stepped on the edge of the bar joist and as he shifted his balance, he fell. The personal fall arrest system performed as designed and stopped him after a 3½-foot fall.



Foot placement just prior to fall

Possible Contributing Factors:

- The ironworker briefly lost his situational awareness and did not make sure his right foot was on the panel before shifting his weight, possibly due to complacency with the repetitive task or distraction due to the movement of equipment or workers in his vision.
- The panels are the finished roof. The bundle of panels was placed on the trusses to prevent damaging the installed roof panels, and the worker attached his fall protection to the open joists instead of the roof deck. This required the workers to walk backwards across the bar joists to place the panel instead of working from previously placed panels.

Primary Contributing Factors:

- The ironworker briefly lost his situational awareness and did not make sure his right foot was on the panel before shifting his weight, possibly due to complacency with the repetitive task or distraction due to the movement of equipment or workers in his vision.
- The panels are the finished roof. The bundle of panels was placed on the trusses to prevent damaging the installed roof panels, and the worker attached his fall protection to the open joists instead of the roof deck. This required the workers to walk backwards across the bar joists to place the panel instead of working from previously placed panels.

Possible Solutions:

- Review with associates the importance of maintaining situational awareness – not only the task being performed but all other activities that may distract or create a hazard.
- Investigate whether maximum and minimum length of sheets can be specified when ordering the job.
- When planning elevated work, continue to integrate proper fall protection systems.
- In pre-task planning, continue to emphasize hazards that may not be obvious.
- Consider making a short video highlighting the successful outcome of this incident.

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Action Plan:

- Continue effective pre-planning and pre-task plan meetings, including assessing the situation and work area.
- Continue to involve the field in estimating and determining panel sizes when possible.
- Share lessons learned with estimating/preconstruction.
- Create a video with the foreman and worker discussing the planning that went into safely performing this activity and the associate's story.

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Dave Boyer, Cleveland, 440.653.6133; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.