



Division of Mineral Mining

## Serious Injury Accident Investigation: Fall Accident May 14, 2002

A roofing contractor foreman was seriously injured when he fell 18 feet from a portable extension ladder. The foreman was passing a 26 ft x 15 ft metal roofing panel to workers on the roof of a new shop building. A gust of wind caught the panel, causing the ladder to slide off the side of the building and the foreman to fall to the ground. The victim was reportedly unconscious for approximately 4-5 minutes after landing on the ground. The victim suffered severe bruising and contusions to his right side, but no fractures or other injuries.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** To prevent a similar accident from occurring, weather conditions should constantly be monitored and work should stop at any time the safety of workers could be jeopardized by unsafe weather conditions (high winds, electrical storms, etc). When using a portable ladder, the top end should be anchored, whenever possible. In addition, persons climbing or descending ladders must face the ladder and keep both hands free for climbing as required by DMM Safety and Health Regulation 4 VAC 25-40-1910.

