

**CARPENTER WORKER SUFFERS FATAL
HEAD INJURIES IN FALL FROM HEIGHT**

Type of Incident: Fatal Incident

Date of Incident: February 11, 2011

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SECTION 1.0 DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT

1.1 The incident occurred on February 11, 2011 at approximately 12:40 p.m.

SECTION 2.0 NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

2.1 Owner(s)

2.1.1 c (Owner of the house under construction)

Leduc, Alberta

2.2 Prime Contractor

2.2.1 c (Owner of the house under construction)

Leduc, Alberta

2.3 Employer(s)

2.3.1 Operating as Fald Construction
P.O. Box 138, RR2
Westerose, Alberta T0C 2V0

2.4 Contractor (managing other contractors)

2.4.1 Operating as Fald Construction
P.O. Box 138, RR2
Westerose, Alberta T0C 2V0

2.5 Other Contractors

2.5.1 Buck Mountain Plumbing Ltd.
RR1, Site #2, Box 2
Winfield, AB T0C 2X0

2.6 Worker(s)

2.6.1 Name: _____

SECTION 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

- 3.1 [redacted] is a resident of Leduc, Ab and was the owner of the property and the house under construction where the incident occurred.
- 3.2 There was no Prime Contractor designated for the site so the Prime Contractor responsibilities reverted to the owner of the property, [redacted] (refer to 3.1).
- 3.3 Fald Construction, operated by the fatally injured worker, ([redacted]), is a small construction company hired by the owner to build the house where the incident occurred. A corporate search of this company revealed that it is not registered in the province of Alberta. At the time of the incident, [redacted] was employing another worker, [redacted], who was helping with the construction work
- 3.4 At the time of the incident Fald Construction (refer to 3.1) was completing most of the construction work at the site but hired other services where required and directed their activity.
- 3.5 Buck Mountain Plumbing Ltd. was hired by Fald Construction to complete the plumbing work in the house under construction and had workers employed at this site on the day of the incident.

SECTION 4.0 LOCATION OF INCIDENT

- 4.1 The residential construction site where the incident occurred is located in a subdivision in the Village of Gandview which is located on the south side of Pigeon Lake, AB. The Legal Site Description (LSD) of the property is SE 27-46-01-W5 (Refer to Attachment A – Map).

SECTION 5.0 EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL AND OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Equipment and Material

- 5.1.1 The house under construction at LSD SE 27-46-01-W5. (Refer to Attachment C – Photograph # 3).
- 5.1.1.1 The house has no identifying unit number or home address on it. It is located in the centre of the lot and is surrounded by several out buildings some of which were part of a farm that use to be located at this site.
- 5.1.2 Opening in the main floor inside the house.
- 5.1.2.1 On the ground level in the centre of the single storey house, there is an opening that gives access to the basement. The vertical distance from the edge of the opening to

the basement floor below measures 2.97 m. There was no guard rail at the edge of the stairwell opening at the time of the incident.

5.1.2.2 The opening had a scaffold plank laying across it dividing it into a larger and smaller section. The dimensions of the smaller section were .69 m wide, 1.71 m long on one side and .86 m long on the other side. (Refer to Attachment C – Photograph # 4)

5.1.3 Black Vinyl Tarp

5.1.3.1 A large black vinyl tarp was being used to cover the opening to prevent heat from escaping from the basement.

5.2 Observations

5.2.1 The inside of the house was in the middle of construction. The walls were framed-in and plumbers were in the process of installing the plumbing and heating systems. The opening in the main floor (referred to in section 5.1.2. above) was created so that stairs could be installed to provide access to the basement. The stairs had not yet been installed and workers were using a portable ladder to access the basement.

SECTION 6.0 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT

6.1 On February 11, 2011 the carpenter () and his helper () were working on the exterior of the house installing soffit and fascia. The two workers decided to take a lunch break and entered the rear of the house on the main floor with the intention of going into the heated basement where they ate their meals.

6.2 Prior to entering the basement via a portable ladder, the carpenter () took the helper () over to an area near the smaller section of the opening (referred to in 5.1.2.2 above) in the main floor to show him some problems related to the plumbing.

6.3 On February 11, 2011 at approximately 12:40 p.m., the carpenter () fell head first through the opening in the main floor to the basement floor and sustained fatal head injuries.

SECTION 7.0 ANALYSIS

7.1 Direct Cause

7.1.1 The direct cause of the fatal injury to the carpenter () was an uncontrolled fall from height onto the basement floor of the house under construction that caused critical head injuries and subsequent death.

7.2 Contributing Factors

- 7.2.1 The stairwell opening on the main floor of the house being constructed did not have fall protection in place around the edge to prevent a worker from falling into it.
- 7.2.2 The area where the carpenter fell through had a tarp covering it thereby concealing where the edge of the opening was and tripping hazards underneath it such as the 2 x 6 and scaffold plank (Refer to Attachment C, Photograph # 4 and # 5).
- 7.2.3 Workers at the site were not taking steps to control hazards. The lack of guardrails around the opening had been previously identified and discussed as a hazard but control measures were not taken to eliminate the danger.

SECTION 8.0 FOLLOW-UP/ ACTION TAKEN

8.1 Alberta Employment and Immigration; Occupational Health and Safety

- 8.1.1 Occupational Health and Safety Officers attended the site of the incident and investigated on February 11, 2011.
- 8.1.2 The following order was written to the owner of the site, J :
- A stop work order inside the house was issued and was to remain in effect until fall protection was installed around the edge of the opening to the basement.
- 8.1.3 The following orders were written to Buck Mountain Plumbing Ltd.:
- A stop work order was issued for any further plumbing and heating work inside the house until fall protection was installed around the edge of the opening to the basement.
 - Hazard assessments complying with the Occupational Health and Safety Code were required to be completed at this construction site and confirmation in writing was required on how continued hazard assessments would be assured going forward.
 - An emergency response plan was required as there was not one in place at the time of the incident and the contractor was required to confirm the contents of the plan in writing.
 - The contractor was required to upgrade their first aid equipment supplies and training as there was no one trained in first aid at the incident location at the time of the incident.
 - Confirmation in writing was required on how the contractor would implement fall protection planning at future work sites to protect plumbers from fall hazards.

8.1.4. All of the orders from the Occupational Health and Safety Investigators were complied with and work was allowed to resume at the site.

8.2 Additional Measures

8.2.1 No additional measures were required.

SECTION 9.0 SIGNATURES

Andrew Pollock, Lead Investigator

Date

Gene Wolkowycki, Investigator

Date

Gerry Wagner, Manager

Date

Joanne Garton, Regional Director, Central

Date

SECTION 10.0 ATTACHMENTS:

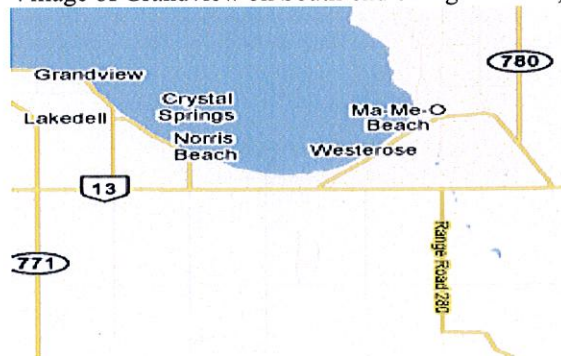
Attachment A	Map
Attachment B	Diagrams or Sketch (none included)
Attachment C	Photographs



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 Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada, Ressources naturelles Canada.

USA / É-U d'A

Village of Grandview on South-end of Pigeon Lake, Ab





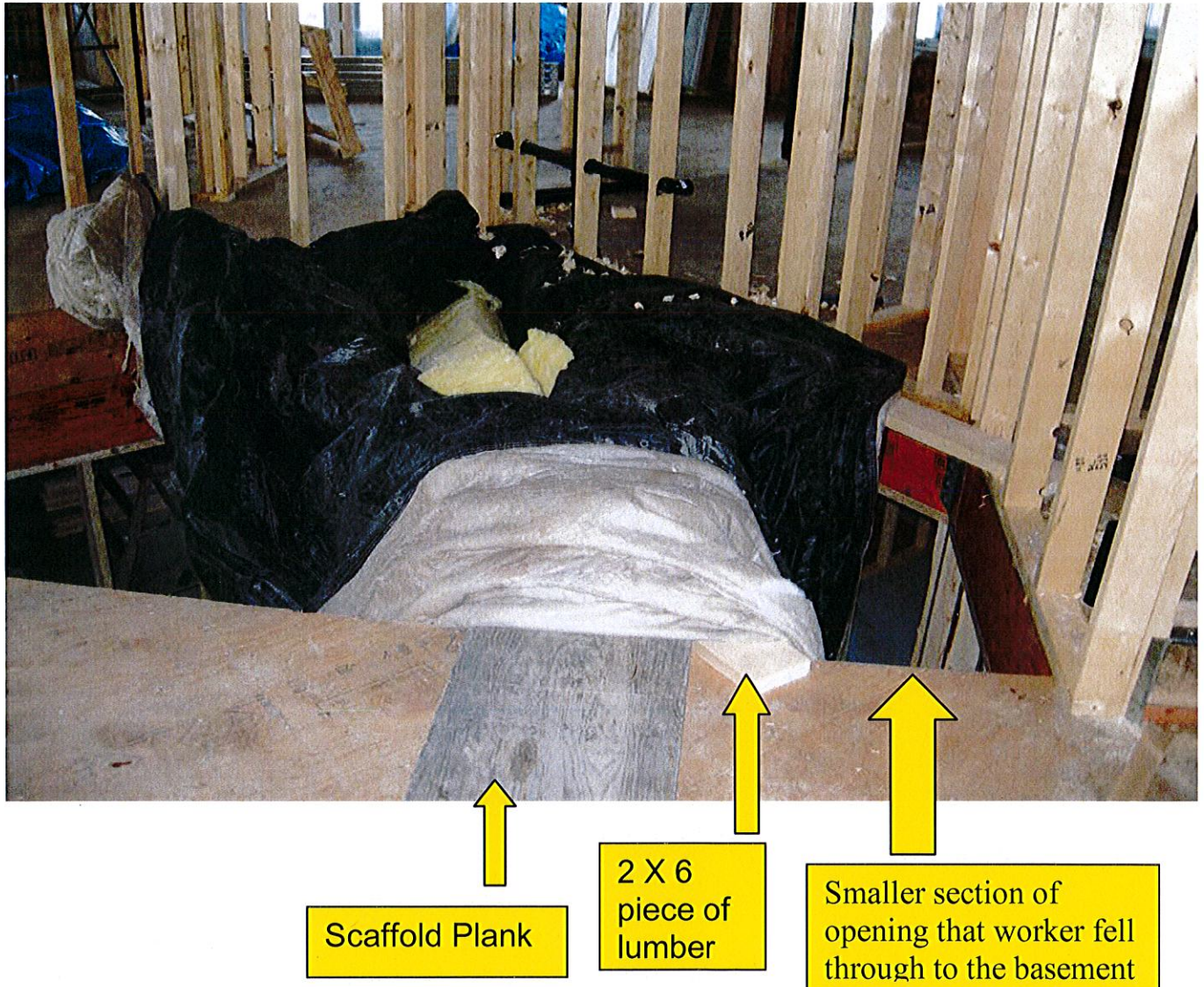
Photograph #1 Shows the signage posted at the entrance to the property with the company information for Fald Construction



Photograph #2 Shows the entrance to the property looking to the west



Photograph #3 Shows the house on the property being built looking to the west



Photograph #4 Shows the opening to the basement on the main floor of the house which is divided in half by a scaffold plank laying across it



Scaffold Plank

Area where worker fell
through the opening

Photograph #5 Shows a re-creation of what the opening would have appeared like with the tarp covering it prior to the worker falling through



Photograph #6 Shows what the opening looked like after the incident with a proper guardrail in place to protect workers