

Just-In-Time Report

Event Involving Use of Speed-Rail® Handrailing Systems

September 14, 2007

2007-RL-HNF-0035

Tracking No: 680

Site/Facility: Hanford/All

Event: At approximately 1030 hours on September 12th, FH work was in progress at the 105KE Transfer Bay IXM Filter Unit. During the activity, a 93.75 inch length of Schedule 40 carbon steel pipe railing (with attached toe plate) from a Speed-Rail® system became displaced/detached and fell about 7 feet to the floor below. This piece of railing, which had been installed as a horizontal member in the Speed-Rail® system, landed a short distance from an employee. No injuries resulted from the falling object. Though the cause(s) that triggered the event are under review, it is evident that the railing loosened free from its connection.

Important Points: Speed-Rail® systems are used as both temporary and permanent safety barriers. In either case the handrail system should be periodically inspected to ensure proper working condition and ability to serve the intended safety function.

Contributors: Until further investigation of the event is completed, it is assumed that over time the set screws which hold the system together loosened and the horizontal rail worked itself free from the connectors.

Other Important Considerations - Prevent Events

Managers/Supervisors	Workers
<p>Inspect Speed-Rail® systems constructed 4-foot or greater above ground or surface areas for proper assembly and installation. Verify the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horizontal rails are the right length and are both aligned and snug with the post connectors. 2. Components are properly sized and compatible with the system, and fit together plumb and square. 3. Set screws and other attachment points are properly tightened. 4. Components are free of damage that could affect structural integrity. 	<p>When working near handrails, inspect the handrail system to determine its integrity and safety prior to performing work.</p> <p>Report any condition to management where a handrail system may have any potential defect or lack of integrity presenting a safety hazard.</p>

JIT-LL bulletins are prepared based upon preliminary information in order to rapidly communicate important safety related information in the interest of preventing similar events. This bulletin may be revised or a lessons learned may be issued upon receipt of additional information resulting from related event investigations and/or accident reports.