

A **22 year old male** employee installing insulation on piping **fell 71'** from the fifth floor of the HCL Generation building at the Wacker Polysilicon North America LLC facility in an attempt to escape an HCL release. Two other employees were injured as a result of their falls as well. The employer was contracted by Wacker as in-house specialty contractor who conducts work such as scaffolding, painting, insulation work, etc. Another contractor on site had an employee injured as a result of the HCL release also.

On the day of the incident, two different contractors had crews working on the fifth floor of the HCL Generation building performing different tasks. This employer's crew was re-insulating pipes while the other contractor's crew was hot torquing an energized heat exchanger. The building is an open structure with one set of stairs on the north side of the building accessing the fifth floor; the fifth floor measured approximately 14' wide x 26' long.

The two sets of employees were wearing vastly different PPE even though the employees from both companies were working within 4-6 feet of each other. This contractor's employees were wearing standard PPE, had emergency respirators, and FR clothing; the other contractor's employees had on full chemical suits, rubber boots, and respirators. Both contractors were issued work permits by Wacker indicating the appropriate PPE to be worn for the projects being worked. This employer's employees inquired to the other contractor's employees about the difference in PPE and were assured by the other contractor's employees that their PPE was appropriate for their assigned tasks.

Through the investigation, it was determined that the HCL release occurred from a heat exchanger located on the north end of the fifth floor at the HCL Generation building.

When the release occurred, this contractor's employees were working in an area southwest of the heat exchanger. Because the heat exchanger was between them and the stairs, three employees attempted to scale down the side of the building to escape the HCL using a green pipe and purple pipe located on the west side of the building. Two were injured and one received fatal injuries from the 71' fall. Another employee dropped to the floor grating where an employee of the other contractor helped with an escape respirator. The other contractor's employees were able to don escape respirators and exit using the stairs.

The employees of this contractor followed the steps and procedures they were given that were applicable for the job they were tasked to perform. It was determined that the other contractor's employee did not apply the appropriate torque to the heat exchanger thereby causing the chemical release.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

No citations recommended for this contractor as a result of this fatality inspection.

