

## 12. Struck by Concrete Column

A 49-year-old construction worker was killed when a large piece of concrete struck his head. The victim's employer was contracted to dismantle and re-construct portions of a bridge which was structurally deficient. The main arches and piers were the only salvageable components of the original structure and all other components were being removed and replaced. Two barges were located on the river underneath the bridge; on one barge was a 150-ton crane used to lower dislodged bridge material to a second scrap barge tethered to the crane barge. The victim was working on the crane barge while a large concrete column was cut from the bridge and prepared to be lowered to the scrap barge. Nylon rope tag lines were attached to the concrete column to help guide it as it was lowered. The victim on the barge went to move a torch set and hoses into position for the next column to be cut out of the bridge and by doing so placed himself under the column being moved. As the concrete column was lowered, a tag line became snagged on the bridge structure and when it pulled free, a large piece of concrete debris was dislodged. The concrete debris fell approximately 60 feet from its position and struck the victim on his head. The victim fell unconscious to the barge floor, never regained consciousness and the injury was fatal.

### TOSHA Citation(s) as Originally Issued

#### Citation 1

Item 1 1926.501(c)(3)	Where employees were exposed to falling objects, the employer did not implement the erection toeboards, screens, or guardrail systems to prevent objects from falling from higher levels; or erect a canopy structure and keep potential fall objects far enough from the edge of the higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced; or, barricade the area to which objects could fall, prohibit employees from entering the barricaded area, and keep objects that may fall far enough away from the edge of a higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally displaced.
Item 2 1926.1424(a)(2)(ii)	Control lines, warning lines, railings or similar barriers that mark the boundaries of the hazard areas were not erected or maintained.

Where the fatality occurred

