Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

AIRCRAFT REPAIR INJURY

Expert Investigates Fall from Work Platform

An independent contractor fell while descending from an engine cowling onto an A-frame stepladder in a helicopter assembly factory. The plaintiff lost his balance when an engine cover strut released and caused the engine cover to move. Robson Forensic was retained to determine if the actions of the parent company violated applicable standards of care and created a dangerous condition and/or procedure in a manner that was a cause of the Plaintiff's injury.

Investigation by our workplace safety expert, Ronald D. Schaible, CSP, CHCM revealed that an improperly engineered work platform was used. Mr. Schaible showed that elevated work of this type requires a properly engineered work platform that is stable (unlike the ladder used in the incident) and which eliminates gaps between the work platform and fuselage through which workers could fall, or the use of a fall protection system with appropriate training. Neither was provided to the plaintiff, despite the fact that the parent company recognized the need during previous safety audits. The parent company failed to ensure that local management implemented the safety requirements as stated within their own corporate policies.

Mr. Schaible successfully demonstrated that the parent company's failure to provide a properly engineered platform and/or a fall protection system with appropriate training caused the plaintiff to fall to the ground and sustain injury.

This case settled favorably for our client.

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