

THINK YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY?

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In Block #3 of the accident reporting form, I put "trying to do the job alone" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of bricks left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the side of the building on the top floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel over the side and loaded bricks into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of bricks. You will note in Block #11 of the accident report form that my weight is 185 pounds. Do to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull, minor abrasions, and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope despite the excruciating pain I was beginning to experience.

At that time however, the barrel of bricks reached the ground - and the bottom fell out of the barrel when it hit. Now devoid of the 500 pounds of bricks the barrel now weighed only 50 pounds.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth, and the severe lacerations on my legs and lower body.

Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow it up enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the pile of bricks in pain, unable to move and watching the empty barrel six stories above me, I lost hold of the rope. The empty barrel weighed more than the rope and came back down on me and broke both my legs.

I hope I have furnished the information you required as to how the accident occurred.