Local

Man dies after being impaled at construction site

Worker fell five feet onto a piece of rebar as he poured concrete

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A 24-year-old man died Tuesday after he was impaled by a piece of rebar at a residential construction site in Hope Ranch, authorities said.

The incident was reported at about 9:47 a.m., prompting a response by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and an American Medical Response ambulance, said department spokesman Capt. David Sadecki said. He was transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital suffering from major head trauma.

He was pronounced dead about an hour later.

Witnesses said he was pouring concrete in the 500 block of Via Tranquila when he fell 5 feet off a retaining wall and was impaled by the metal bar.

Firefighters arrived and found the man in full respiratory arrest after suffering major injuries, Capt. Sadecki said.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Coroner's Bureau has become involved with the case in order to determine the manner and cause of the man's death, department spokesman Drew Sugars said. The cause was considered accidental, and the investigation is being conducted by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.
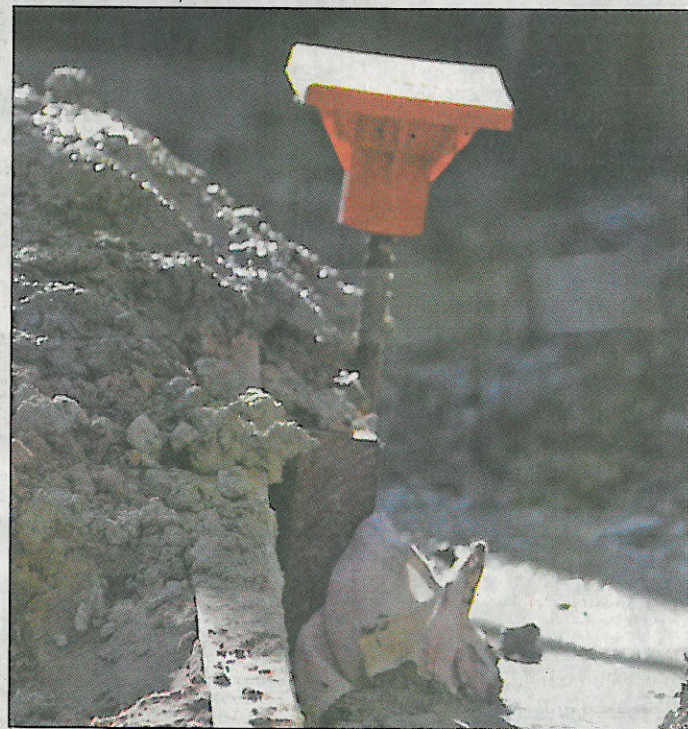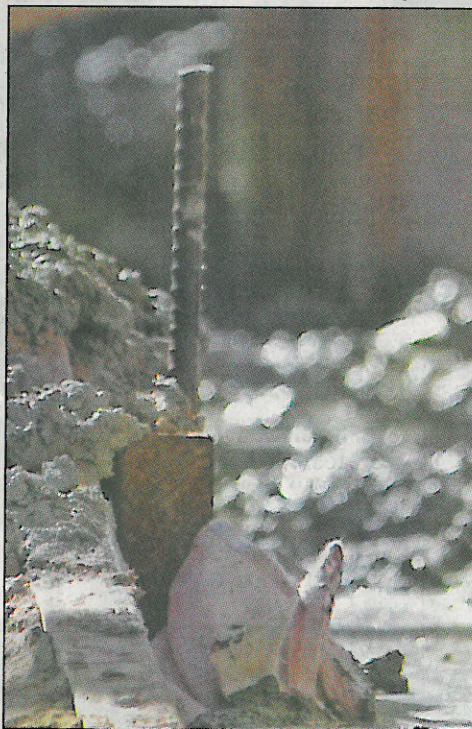
As of Tuesday afternoon, the victim's next of kin had not yet been notified, so his name could not be released.

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DAVID SADECKI/COURTESY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTME

Rescuers and workers tend to the body of a 24-year-old man who was killed Tuesday when he fell onto a piece of rebar while pouring concrete at a work site in the 500 block of Via Tranquila in Hope Ranch.

The piece of rebar onto which a 24-year-old man fell, suffering a fatal injury, is seen at left at a construction site in the 500 block of Via Tranquila in Hope Ranch. The photo was taken at 3 p.m. Tuesday, more than five hours after the man was killed. At right is the same piece of rebar seen at 4 p.m., this time with a protective covering on top.