

# Stadium Accident

## One Dead, One Injured in Viking Stadium Construction Worker Falls to his Death

By Jakob Kounkel

An employee of Berwald Roofing Company fell to his death (most news sites report it was approximately fifty feet) while working on U.S. Bank Stadium in August. Thirty-five-year-old Jeramie Gruber slid down the roof he was working on and broke through a guardrail before falling to an elevated platform below, according to the Minnesota Occupational Health and Safety Administration. Gruber was pronounced dead on arrival at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Gruber and a fellow employee were installing a solid roof when it happened, but the other employee, who has not been named, didn't fall as far after being lucky enough to slide into a post. A company official from Berwald Roofing states that the unnamed employee received four dozen stitches and staples on his leg after suffering a deep cut.

Berwald Roofing Company is a subcontractor to Mortenson Construction—the general contractor overseeing the whole project—on the U.S. Bank Stadium project, and according to NFL.com, records show that the company has received nine citations for serious safety violations in the past five years.

It was also reported that Berwald Roofing was unavailable to provide any comments towards these violations or the incident. According to OSHA reports, roofers on scaffolding were not protected from falling through guardrails on all open sides. OSHA fined Berwald Roofing \$2,100 last August for not taking safe scaffolding measures.

John Wood, senior vice president with Mortenson Construction stated, “Our priority is to ensure that we know exactly what happened and ensure that it never happens again. A man lost his life on this project today and that simply can't happen.”

According to Gruber's obituary, “He enjoyed fishing, hunting and the outdoors. Jeramie was a kind, honest, loving man. He enjoyed spending time with his wife and their dog, Girl.” Gruber also loved children, and being an uncle to his nieces and nephew. “Jeramie would help anyone that needed a helping hand.”

Along with the hundreds of comments of memories and solace that decorate his tribute wall, 1,200 men and women working on the project gathered together to honor Gruber and the outstanding loss that the community suffered.



# France Train Attack

## Brave Americans Prevent Terrorist Attack



By Dana Murphy

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, at approximately 6:00 p.m., three Americans riding a train from Amsterdam to Paris prevented a very deadly terrorist attack.

A French passenger was waiting to enter the train's restroom when a Moroccan man emerged from it. He was armed with an AK-47, nine magazines of ammunition, a nine millimeter automatic handgun and a box cutter.

When the French man saw this, he attempted to tackle the gunman, but failed. Seconds later, fifty-one year-old French-American passenger Mark Moogalian acted quickly, successfully disarming the gunman of his AK-47. Disarmed of his assault rifle, the gunman quickly pulled out a second gun, firing a bullet into Moogalian's neck. Moogalian turned to his wife, yelling, “I'm hit, I'm hit.”

When the gunman fired, it caught the attention of three American men sitting a few seats ahead. The first to take action was twenty-three year-old Airman First Class, Spencer Stone. Soon after, twenty-two year-old Oregon National Guard Alek Skarlatos and twenty-three year-old Anthony Sadler came to his aide.

The three childhood friends proceeded to tackle the gunman, disarming him and beating him with his own guns. It took multiple attempts to subdue the terrorist, but they eventually knocked him unconscious. The Americans, along with Chris Norman, a British man who lives in France, restrained the attacker by tying him up. The men then traveled to each train car to inform the

other passengers of the events that took place. Through fingerprint analysis, the gunman was later identified as 26 year-old Moroccan national Ayoub El-Khazzani. He had been flagged by Intelligence in 2014 as having links to radical Islamism.

Moogalian was rushed to the hospital and was later reported to be in stable condition. Stone suffered cuts to his neck, head, and hands, but was released from the hospital after twenty-four hours. Skarlatos and Sadler suffered no injuries.

On Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, three days after the attack, there was a ceremony held for the four heroes. Moogalian was the only one of the four unable to attend the ceremony, but they all received France's highest decoration, the Legion d'honneur (Legion of Honor) Award.

President Barack Obama telephoned the three men to commend them for their “extraordinary bravery.” French President Francois Hollande extended his overwhelming gratitude to the four heroes, stating, “By their courage, they saved lives. They gave us an example of what is possible to do in these kinds of situations.”

