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June 17, 2005 Edition > Section: **New York**

Study Links Use of Illegal Immigrants With Construction Site Safety Violations

BY DANIELA GERSON - Staff Reporter of the Sun
June 17, 2005

Two years after plummeting 30 feet from a faulty scaffolding, a Mexican day laborer made history in March with a \$4 million settlement, the largest ever granted to an illegal immigrant. While his windfall was unique, however, his working conditions were not. The expansion of New York's underground construction industry - increasingly dependent on illegal immigrant labor - is contributing to widespread federal safety violations, a study released yesterday concluded.

The analysis of U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration statistics by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association found violations in nearly three-fourths of work sites where workers make extensive use of scaffolds and ladders.

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