

The following letter is an example of not using team work to accomplish a project and the end results of such lack of team work.

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in response to your request for additional information on the insurance form. In box #3 of the accident report form, I put "trying to do the job alone". 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 date of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new 6 story building. When I completed my work, I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry them down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the building at the 6th floor.

Securing the rope at the ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the brick into it. Then I went back down to the ground level and untied the rope, holding tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 lbs. of brick. Now you will note in line #2 of the accident report form that I weigh 135 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the 3rd floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar bone. This slowed me slightly, I continued my rapid ascent up the side of the building 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 in spite of my pain. Approximately at the same time however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight in box #2. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. Somewhere in the vicinity of the 3rd floor, I again met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two broken ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks, and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, as I lay on the brick, in pain, unable to stand and watching the barrel 6 stories above, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope. The empty barrel weighed more than the rope, so it came back down on me and broke both of my legs.

I hope I have furnished the information as to how the accident occurred. Because you see, I was trying to do the job alone.

Sincerely yours,