



## **Work Safety Alert**

### **Fall from Roof**

- 1. Date of Accident :** February 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A shipbuilding workshop
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while working on the roof of a single-storey structure fell about 3 metres from an unprotected roof edge to the ground. He sustained serious injury and passed away on the same day.

#### **4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :**

To prevent any persons from falling from height, the proprietors/ employers engaged in any work on roof should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work being carried out on roof, taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment;
- formulate appropriate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of the risk assessments;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from the roof;
- erect effective guard-rails to all edges of a roof from which any persons are liable to fall;



- if the erection of guard-rails at roof edges is impracticable, set up a fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee with a suitable safety harness which should be continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage system throughout the work;
- provide each worker/ employee employed at the workplace with a suitable safety helmet with a chin strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee;
- provide all workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures before they are assigned to work; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height<sup>1</sup>](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



### **DISCLAIMER**

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.