



## Work Safety Alert Fall through a Fragile Roof

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2012
2. **Place of Accident :** A renovation site in Yuen Long.
3. **Summary :**

It is reported that a worker, while fixing the roof light of a single-storey structure, plunged through the fragile roof and fell a distance of about 6 metres to his death.

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

To prevent fall from height through fragile roofs, contractors/employers should:

- conduct risk assessments and formulate safe working procedures for working over fragile roof;
- avoid working on roofs where practicable and adopt safer job methods such as working from the underneath of the roof by using a suitable working platform;
- If the work cannot be done from underneath and workers need access to the topside of the roof, use a mobile elevating work platform that allows people to work from within the basket without standing on the roof itself;
- If access onto the fragile roof cannot be avoided, install perimeter edge protection and use stagings on the roof surface to spread the loads; otherwise provide suitable fall protection devices and exercise effective supervision to ensure the workers make full and proper use of the fall protection devices so provided;



- display prominent warning notices to alert workers of the fall hazard; and
- implement effective monitoring system to ensure that the above safety precautionary measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes to Renovation Safety<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems<sup>1</sup>](#)

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### 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.

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