



Work Safety Alert **Falling through a Void on a Cockloft**

1. **Date of Accident:** February 2014
2. **Place of Accident:** A warehouse under construction
3. **Summary:**

A worker was suspected to have plunged about 3 metres to his death through a void on a cockloft to the ground while he was engaged in floor laying work.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers:

To prevent any workers from falling from height, contractors/employers should:

- conduct task specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable scaffolds or elevating working platforms where practicable;
- properly fence off or cover any dangerous edges, openings or other void spaces over or through which persons are liable to fall;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable fall protection devices by workers, where the use of scaffolds or working platforms or protection of dangerous edges, openings or void spaces are impracticable; and



- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [An Analysis on Occupational Fatalities - Casebook Volume 3¹](#)

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.

¹ Click to view the document