



Work Safety Alert

Fall from a Canopy

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2015
2. **Place of Accident :** A village house under renovation

3. Summary :

A worker fell about 3.3m to his death from the canopy of a village house while he was lowering a bag of construction debris from the canopy to the ground.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers undertaking work-at-height should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures with due regard to the working environment;
- avoid working on unsafe places of work such as unprotected canopy as far as practicable and adopt safe work methods;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable scaffolds or elevating working platforms where practicable;



- where use of scaffolds or working platforms and safeguarding unprotected edges are impracticable, provide and ensure the use of suitable fall arresting system by workers;
- provide relevant safety information, instruction and training to the workers involved; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system to 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](#)

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