



## Work Safety Alert

### Fall through a Window Opening

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building
3. **Summary :**

A worker fell to death through a window opening of an upper floor unit on 17/F of a residential building to the 2/F flat roof while cleaning the window.

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

To prevent any workers/employees from falling from height through window openings, the contractors/employers engaged in any work at or near window openings should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all associated potential hazards, taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- adopt safe work methods and avoid over-stretching the body beyond the window openings or working above ground near the window openings by using suitable equipment or tools;
- where work-above-ground near the window openings cannot be avoided, ensure suitable working platforms with proper guard-rails and toe-boards, such as step platforms, be provided and used for the work;
- where workers/employees engaged in work at or near window openings are exposed to falling hazard, provide each of them with a suitable safety



harness that is continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system from a safe place; and ensure the proper use of them by the workers/employees throughout the work;

- display warning notices at prominent places near window openings to alert workers/employees to the falling hazard;
- provide all workers/employees who are engaged in work at or near window openings with necessary safety information, instruction and training;
- ensure that workers/employees concerned are working in accordance with the safe work methods and procedures with all necessary safety measures adopted; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures by the workers/employees.

## 5. Reference :

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

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



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**Occupational Safety and Health Branch**  
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