



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Metal Canopy

1. Date of Accident: May 2025

2. Place of Accident: A residential house

3. Summary:

A worker fell about 2.8m while working on the top of a metal canopy being installed at a residential house. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers from falling from height while at work, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- providing and ensuring the proper use of suitable working platforms for work that cannot be safely done on or from the ground or from part of a permanent structure;
- ensuring that every working platform is protected with (i) suitable guard-rails, with the height of intermediate guard-rail between 450mm to 600mm, and the height of the top guard-rail between 900mm to 1150mm; and (ii) suitable toe-boards or other similar barriers with a height of not less than 200mm;
- ensuring that every working platform is closely boarded or planked; and every board or plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
- ensuring that all nearby dangerous edges are properly fenced off;
- where the provision of suitable working platforms or protection of





dangerous edges is not reasonably practicable, setting up a fall arresting system (or an alike system) by providing every worker concerned with a suitable safety harness and ensuring the continuous plus proper attachment of the harness to a suitable anchorage system while at work;

- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- providing workers involved with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensuring that they properly wear it on construction sites;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the canopy installation work with due regard to work at height safety; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹:

- Overview of Work-at-Height Safety
- Safe Systems of Work
- Five Steps to Risk Assessment
- Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training
- A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height

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¹ Click to view documents





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.