



Work Safety Alert

Fall from a Portable Metal Ladder

1. **Date of Accident:** September 2017
2. **Place of Accident:** An open storage yard
3. **Summary:**

A worker who was engaged in cleansing an air handling unit fell about 2 metres to the ground while climbing down from the top of the unit via a portable metal ladder. He sustained head injury and passed away on the same day.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers:**

To prevent any persons from falling from height, the proprietors/ employers undertaking plant servicing or maintenance work should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of the work, the dimensions of the plant and the working environment, particularly those related to work-above-ground;
- formulate appropriate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant codes of practice;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- avoid work-above-ground where possible by, for example, designing and using specific hand tools to allow the work to be done on the ground;



- if work-above-ground cannot be avoided, provide and ensure the use of suitable working platforms or other safe means of support such as elevating work platforms, where appropriate, by workers/ employees who are required to work above ground;
- for light-duty work to be carried out in work environment where a suitable working platform or other safe means of support cannot be erected (for example, restrictive work space), provide and ensure the use of suitable step platform or hop-up platform as appropriate;
- provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a Y-type chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- provide all workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



- [Guidelines on Work-above-ground Safety by the Construction Industry Council¹](#)

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.