



Work Safety Alert Fall from a wooden ladder

1. **Date of Accident :** August 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A hostel building
3. **Summary :**

A worker who was engaged in air-conditioner replacement work was suspected to have fallen from a toppled foldable wooden ladder to the ground while applying sealant to fill the gap between an air-conditioner and the window frame. He sustained serious head injury and passed away subsequently.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, proprietors/ employers undertaking air-conditioning work or other work-above-ground alike 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 work and the work environment, particularly where work-above-ground is involved;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work, taking into consideration the results of the risk assessments and following the requirements of safety legislation, recognised safety standards and guidelines;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms for the work and refrain from using ladders as far as reasonably practicable;



- 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 proper use of suitable step platforms or hop-up platforms as appropriate;
- provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- provide all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and 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
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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Occupational Safety and Health Branch
 勞工處
Labour Department



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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.