



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Height**

- 1. Date of Accident :** May 2021
- 2. Place of Accident :** The roof of a warehouse under repair
- 3. Summary :**

A director of a warehouse, while carrying out waterproofing work on the roof of the warehouse, a corrugated roof panel on which he was stepping suddenly broke open and he fell onto the ground. He sustained serious injuries and passed away two days later in the hospital.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, proprietors/ employers engaged in any repair work on the roof of a building/ structure should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing 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, the construction and structural condition of the roof and the work environment, particularly where there are dangerous places from which workers/ employees are liable to fall;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and safety guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers/ employees, such as falling hazard;
- strictly prohibiting entering into or working on fragile structure;



- ensuring the work can safely be done from a safe place and avoiding workers/ employees to perform work at or near any dangerous places where they are liable to fall;
- where work at or near any dangerous places cannot be avoided, taking adequate steps, including the provision and ensuring the use of a suitable working platform with guard-rails and toe-boards;
- for special working environment (such as a restrictive space) where a suitable working platform cannot be erected, providing relevant workers/ employees with suitable safety harnesses and providing suitable and securing anchor point(s), independent lifeline(s) or fall arresting system(s) for continuous attachment of the safety harnesses worn by the workers/ employees at the workplace;
- taking adequate steps to ensure the proper use of safety harnesses, anchor points, independent lifelines and fall arresting systems by the workers/ employees throughout the work;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- providing each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensuring the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing 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
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents Related to work-at-Height](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)¹

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.

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