



Work Safety Alert Fall to Death from a Viaduct

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A viaduct over a public road
3. **Summary :**

A worker fell to death from a viaduct onto a public road below when temporary traffic arrangement for road works on the viaduct concerned was being set up.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height while at work on a viaduct, the contractors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the workplace, particularly those dangerous places where workers/ employees will work and are liable to fall from height;
- formulate 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 minimize the risks exposed to the workers/ employees, such as falling hazard;
- avoid workers/ employees performing work at or near any dangerous places on the viaduct where they are liable to fall or otherwise ensure the work can safely be done from a safe place;
- where work at or near any dangerous places is required, provide and ensure the use of suitable working platforms with adequate fall protection where necessary;



- where the use of suitable working platforms is not reasonably practicable and working at such dangerous places cannot be avoided, provide every worker with a suitable safety harness with its lanyard continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage throughout the work and take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper use of them by the worker/employee;
- 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
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)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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