



Work Safety Alert

Fall from a Folding Step-Ladder

1. **Date of Accident:** July 2020
2. **Place of Accident:** An open ground of residential premises
3. **Summary:**

A worker while standing on the top platform of a folding step-ladder to carry out tree pruning work fell onto the ground. He sustained serious head injury and passed away five days later.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in tree pruning work from falling from height, the proprietors/ employers 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 and the working environment, particularly those related to work-above-ground;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, recognised safety standards and relevant guidelines;
- 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 platform) 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 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
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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