



Work Safety Alert

Fall from a Metal A-Ladder

1. **Date of Accident:** January 2020
2. **Place of Accident:** A commercial building
3. **Summary:**

A worker while riding on metal A-ladder to remove a de-energised cable from an overhead cable tray, fell about 2.2m from the ladder onto the ground. The worker sustained serious head injury and passed away two days later.

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

To prevent any persons from falling from height when doing work-above-ground, the proprietors/ employers responsible for the 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 and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, and follow the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines;
- avoid using ladders for work-above-ground;
- provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms or elevating work platforms where appropriate for the work, which should comply with the following requirements:-



- with a width of not less than 400mm;
 - be closely boarded or planked;
 - be provided with guard-rails in that the height of the top guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 900mm and 1150mm while the height of the intermediate guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 450mm and 600mm;
 - be provided with toe-boards or other similar barriers with a height of not less than 200mm.
- ensure that every working platform is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
 - where the provision of working platform is not reasonably practicable, provide all workers/ employees involved with suitable safety harnesses and provide at the workplace where work-above-ground is to be undertaken suitable and secure anchor point(s), independent lifeline(s) or fall arresting system(s) for continuous attachment of the safety harnesses worn by the workers/ employees;
 - take steps to ensure the proper use of the safety harnesses, anchor points, independent lifelines and fall arresting systems by the workers/ employees 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 Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)

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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