



Work Safety Alert **Fallen from Height**

- 1. Date of Accident** : December 2020
- 2. Place of Accident** : A residential house under renovation
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while removing the protective layer of a glass fence at the garden of a residential house was suspected to have fallen from the footing of the glass fence or a two-step wooden stool onto the ground. He suffered serious head injury and passed away on the following day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height when doing work-above-ground, the contractors/ 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 work and the work environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and follow the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines;
- provide and properly 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 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 which conforms to international or national standards with the compliance of relevant statutory safety requirements;
- 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 that 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

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
勞工處
Labour Department



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.