



## Work Safety Alert Fall through a Floor Opening

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2020
2. **Place of Accident :** A site office under dismantling
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was stepping on a wooden board that covered a floor opening on 1/F to carry out work for dismantling of a site office, the board suddenly broke causing him to fall through the opening onto the ground. The worker sustained serious injuries and passed away four days later.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, contractors/ employers engaged in any work at or near dangerous places with floor openings 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 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;
- 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;



- ensuring that every covering provided for a floor opening is so constructed and maintained as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; and the covering has been clearly and boldly marked as to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position;
- where work at or near any dangerous places cannot be avoided, providing every worker/ employee with a suitable safety harness with its lanyard continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage throughout the work and taking all reasonable steps to ensure the proper use of them by the worker/employee;
- 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](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents Related to work-at-Height](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



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**Occupational Safety and Health Branch**  
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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.