



Work Safety Alert **Fall through a Window Opening**

- 1. Date of Accident :** August 2019
- 2. Place of Accident :** An upper floor office unit in a composite building
- 3. Summary :**

An office staff while attempting to reach a ceiling cabinet by stepping on a bench fell on the street to his death through an adjacent window opening.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent fall of persons working at or near window openings, proprietors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, particularly the falling hazard through the window openings, taking into account the nature of work, environment and features of workplaces including the premises layout;
- 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;
- avoid workers/ employees performing work at any dangerous places where they are liable to fall by, for example, proper design and arrangement of furniture, fixture and equipment to enable work to be safely done on the floor as far as reasonably practicable;
- where work-above-ground near window openings cannot be avoided, ensure the windows are installed with grilles of adequate strength or are properly closed and securely locked before the commencement of work;



- provide and ensure the proper use of suitable means of support, such as step platforms or hop-up platforms, to carry out work-above-ground;
- 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
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)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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