



Work Safety Alert
Fall from Height while Erecting/Dismantling
a Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building in Aberdeen
3. **Summary :**

A scaffolder fell to his death from 31/F onto a planter level below the ground floor of the building while he was preparing to erect a truss-out bamboo scaffold at the external wall of the building.

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

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers responsible for the use and erection/dismantling/alteration of a truss-out bamboo scaffold should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the work;
- ensure that every worker working on or erecting/dismantling/altering the scaffold (including doing preparation work at height) is wearing a suitable safety harness that is attached to a suitable anchorage such as a fixed anchor, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from the scaffold;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/dismantled/alterd by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person; and



- implement effective monitoring system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities related to Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolding Works¹](#)
- [Safety Measures for Use of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold¹](#)
- [「狗臂架」式棚架安全須知¹](#) (Chinese version only)

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.

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Work Safety Alert Fall from a Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A building construction site in Tseung Kwan O
3. **Summary :**

A worker fell to his death from 35/F level down to 23/F while he was engaged in removing concrete debris on a platform of the scaffold at the external wall.

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

Where construction work activities may give rise to debris or waste materials, contractors/employers should:

- avoid accumulation of debris or waste materials on scaffolds;
- avoid work-at-height at the external wall to remove the debris or waste materials on scaffolds;
- where work-at-height to remove the debris or waste materials on scaffolds is required:
 - conduct risk assessments, with due consideration of the loading capacity of the scaffolds in particular, and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the work;
 - ensure that the scaffolds are securely supported and properly maintained;
 - ensure that the scaffolds are inspected and certified safe by a



competent person;

- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work;
- ensure the use of suitable working platforms for the work where practicable;
- ensure that the working platforms are not overloaded and that no shock loading on the working platforms is allowed;
- where use of the working platforms is impracticable, ensure that suitable and sufficient fall protection devices connected with proper anchorages are provided and maintained and ensure the use of the fall protection devices by workers;
- implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)

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Work Safety Alert Fall from a Portable Ladder

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A building construction site in Tai Po
3. **Summary :**

A worker fell to his death while he was working on a metal ladder to assist in conveying a drainage pipe to a co-worker working at ceiling level.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers undertaking work-at-height should:

- conduct risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the work;
- use suitable working platforms as support for the work and avoid using portable ladders for the purpose;
- ensure that the working platforms should only be used on even and non-slippery ground;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide workers with proper training and instruction on safe use of working platforms; and
- implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above



safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Safety at Work – A Guide to Ladders and Elevated Working Platforms¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)

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