



Work Safety Alert Fall from Height while Carrying out Work on Roof

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A village house
3. **Summary :**

A worker engaged in adjusting TV antenna for signal improvement at a village house was believed to have fallen onto the ground to death while moving between the 2/F balcony and the roof of the village house via a step-ladder placed on the balcony.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/employees from falling from height, the contractors/employers engaged in any work on roof should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all associated potential hazards, taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from the roof;
- refrain workers/employees from using ladder next to any edges or openings through or from which they are liable to fall 2 metres or more from the ladder;
- erect effective guard-rails to all edges of a roof through or from which any persons are liable to fall 2 metres or more;



- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the roof surface is not less than 900 millimetres and not more than 1150 millimetres for a top guard-rail; not less than 450 millimetres and not more than 600 millimetres for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier is not less than 200 millimetres;
- if the erection of guard-rails at roof edges is impracticable, provide every worker/employee who is engaged in the work on roof with a suitable safety harness that is continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system from a safe place; and ensure the proper use of them by the worker/employee throughout the work;
- provide all workers/employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training;
- ensure that workers/employees are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

¹ Click to view document



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