



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Upper Roof

1. **Date of Accident :** May 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** Upper roof of a residential building
3. **Summary :**

A worker while performing pre-use check of a permanent suspended working platform installed on the upper roof of a residential building, fell about 8 metres from an unfenced edge of the upper roof to the roof below. He sustained serious injury and passed away on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, the contractors/ employers engaged in any work at dangerous places such as roofs of buildings 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 working environment, particularly those dangerous places from which workers/ employees are liable to fall;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;



- erect suitable guard-rails along all unsafe edges of the dangerous places to prevent any person from falling from height;
- if erection of guard-rails at the edges of the dangerous places is impracticable and working at such dangerous places cannot be avoided, set up an effective fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensure the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with its lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- 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 involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the necessary 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
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

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.