



Work Safety Alert **Fall from a Step-Ladder**

- 1. Date of Accident :** February 2021
- 2. Place of Accident :** A residential building
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while clearing blockage of a drainage pipe by riding on a step-ladder at the landing of an open stairway of a residential building was suspected to have fallen over the metal railing of the landing from the step-ladder and plunged to his death onto the 2/F canopy of the building.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in drains maintenance work from falling from height, contractors/ employers 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 the work and the working environment, particularly the falling hazard related to work-above-ground;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, recognised safety standards and relevant guidelines;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- if work-above-ground cannot be avoided, provide and ensure the use of suitable working platforms or other safe means of support by workers/ employees who are required to work above ground;



- for light-duty work to be carried out in work environment where a suitable working platform or other safe means of support cannot be erected (for example, restrictive work space), provide and ensure the use of suitable step platform or hop-up platform as appropriate;
- 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 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 that all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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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.