



## Industrial accident (March 2021)

A fatal work accident happened in March 2021, in which a worker carrying out works for an air-conditioning duct in a restaurant under renovation was suspected to have fallen from a height of 1.2m. He was admitted to hospital immediately but passed away on the following day.

In the first quarter of 2021, all four fatal accidents in construction industry were related to fall of person from height. The situation is worrying. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) hereby urges industry stakeholders to take immediate actions, especially work above ground, to plan ahead safe working procedures and arrange corresponding measures as soon as possible to reduce the risk of falling from heights.

It would be much appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much!

## Recommendations

### ► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with working at height, and taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
2. Provide suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work, and ensure they are regularly checked and repaired;
3. Provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms for the worker as far as reasonably practicable;
4. 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 platforms which conform to international or national standards and follow the manufacturers' manuals to fully extend and lock the stabilisers or outriggers of the platforms in position to ensure that they are stable and in good condition for use;
5. If these are not reasonably practicable, set up a fall arresting system and provide necessary equipment to every worker concerned; and
6. Provide workers with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.



### ► As a Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Ensure the works are carried out in strict accordance with the method statement, safety procedures and safety measures;
2. Implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed by workers, including wearing safety helmet with chin strap properly;
3. Worker should stop working and report to supervisor immediately when he / she encounters unsafe environment or there is inadequate personal protection equipment provided to him / her; and
4. Do not make unauthorised alteration to the protective measures.



### ► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Assist employer to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed, and to report any non-compliances.

The above only listed out key points of safety, for more information please make reference to the 《Construction Site (Safety) Regulations》, the 《Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems》 issued by the Labour Department and 《Work-at-Height Safety Handbook》 and 《Guidelines on Work-Above-Ground Safety》 issued by the CIC.

## Disclaimer

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