



Work Safety Alert Fall from Wooden Folding Ladder

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2025
2. **Place of Accident :** The roof of a residential house
3. **Summary :**

While straddling a wooden folding ladder to pass air duct components to a co-worker during an air-conditioning installation, a worker fell from the ladder. He hit his head on a nearby wall before landing on the floor about 0.6m below. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

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

To prevent workers from falling from ladders while working above ground, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- if work-above-ground cannot be avoided, providing and ensuring the use of suitable working platforms or other safe means of support by workers 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), providing and ensuring the use of suitable step platforms or hop-up platforms in conformity with relevant statutory safety requirements and standards;
- following the manufacturer's manuals to fully extend and lock the stabilisers or outriggers of the platforms (if any) to ensure their stability;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;



- providing each worker involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensuring the proper wearing of the same by the worker on construction sites;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the air-conditioning installation work with due regard to work at height safety; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹ :

- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

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.

¹ Click to view documents