



SAFETY ALERT

A worker recently received a serious hand/wrist injury after falling from a scaffold a distance of nearly 6 metres. Investigation of the accident identified that the scaffold was poorly erected and did not provide the level of edge protection legally required. As a result of the accident financial penalties have been imposed on the contractor concerned for failing to provide a safe place of work.

Falls from height account for over 50 percent of all fatal accidents and contractors must ensure that adequate measures are in place to ensure the safety of their workforce.

All contractors must ensure that the following points are adhered to in order to prevent a recurrence of this type of accident.

- The following must be adhered to:-*
- ➔ *All work at heights must be properly planned and risk assessments must be prepared and briefed out to the workers.*
 - ➔ *All scaffolds must be erected by trained and competent workers.*
 - ➔ *Scaffolders must use full body harnesses during the erection of scaffolding.*
 - ➔ *Guardrails and toeboards must be fitted in accordance with legal requirements. Platforms above 2 metres must be fitted with double guardrails.*
 - ➔ *Inspections must be carried out on newly erected scaffolding and repeated on a weekly basis. Inspections must also be made after scaffolds are adapted or after severe weather conditions.*
 - ➔ *No unauthorized persons are to adapt or modify scaffolding.*
 - ➔ *Scaffolds that are incomplete or identified as unsafe for use must be clearly marked with "Scaffold Incomplete DO NOT USE" signage*
 - ➔ *Managers, Supervisors and Foremen must ensure scaffolds are safe before they put persons to work.*

**For further information contact:
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