



SAFETY ALERT

A worker received a serious head injury when he fell 5 metres from a formwork slab under construction. The worker was not wearing a safety harness as identified in the company's risk assessment and no safe system of work was in place. It should also be noted that the accident occurred during the workers first day on the project.

It is essential to the safety of the workforce that work at height activities are carried out in a planned and safe manner. Supervisors and Managers are responsible for ensuring that the workforce are not placed at risk whilst at work. As a result of the management failures that contributed to the accident financial penalties were imposed on the contractor.

All contractors must take note of the following points and ensure they are communicated to the workforce.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *A detailed risk assessment must be prepared for all work at heights and briefed to the workforce.*
- ➔ *Where safety guardrails cannot be provided in situations such as progressing formwork shuttering workers must be provided with safety harnesses. Instruction in the use of safety harnesses must be provided.*
- ➔ *Where safety harnesses are used contractors must ensure that arrangements are in place to rescue any worker that becomes suspended by his harness after falling.*
- ➔ *Extra care must be taken with workers that are new to site. They must receive clear instruction on how work is to be carried out and the safety measures in place.*
- ➔ *New workers should not be tasked with safety critical work until their competency has been assessed in other work areas.*
- ➔ *Foremen and Supervisors ARE responsible for ensuring those under their control are working safety.*

**For further information contact:
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