



SAFETY ALERT

A serious accident occurred recently on Palm Jumeirah when a worker fell down a lift shaft a distance in excess of 12 metres. The worker was in the process of cleaning rubbish from a platform that had been erected in the lift shaft. As a result of the fall the worker received serious injuries including a broken leg and will be absent from work from some time.

Investigation by EHS identified that the platform was wedged in place using screw head props and had not been inspected since it was erected some 3 months earlier. The barriers had been removed from the lift shaft landing and the supervisor instructed the injured worker to clear the platform of rubbish.

All contractors must take note of the following points and immediately review their operations involving work in lift shafts or other similar locations.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *The preferred method for erecting platforms in a lift shaft is to provide an independent scaffold erected from a solid base.*
- ➔ *Where an independent scaffold cannot be provided the platform must be mechanically fixed if it is to be used as a working platform. A competent engineer must advise on the construction of all such platforms.*
- ➔ *Platforms relying on friction are strictly prohibited.*
- ➔ *A weekly inspection must be carried out for all scaffolding and temporary platforms provided in lift shafts.*
- ➔ *Supervisors are responsible for those that they put to work and must ensure they do not place workers at risk.*
- ➔ *Barriers and signage must be maintained on all lift shaft or similar openings to prevent unauthorized access to the platform.*
- ➔ *Waste must not be allowed to accumulate on working platforms where it can cause overloading and result in trips and falls.*

**For further information contact:
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