



CFMEU WA SAFETY ALERT

11/10/2016

Fall from Height Fatality

A worker tragically fell from the 15th to the 2nd floor leading to her death at the Finbar / Hanssen Pty Ltd, Concerto Apartments Project in Perth on 10/10/2016. The worker applying sealant to panels surrounding the air duct. There was no proper enforced fall prevention system in place at the time of the incident. This incident was totally preventable.



The casualty was standing on a bucket at the edge of the air duct applying sealant to the joins between the panels. There was no fall prevention system in place at the time of the incident. **This attempt at barricading was installed post incident**



The casualty fell 13 levels down the air duct shaft

One of the most common types of construction site incidents are falls from height, in many cases involving a fall through an unprotected penetration. When penetrations in flooring are not properly marked, covered or protected they become a serious safety hazard.

Falls from height result in the most fatalities in the construction industry each year when the proper steps are not taken by employers to protect the safety of workers.

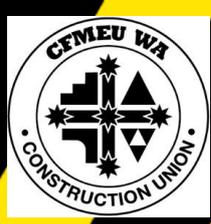
The Occupational Safety and Health Regulations and Code of Practice (Managing Risk of Falls at the Workplace) are intended to protect the health and safety of workers by providing minimum standards that employers and supervisors **MUST** follow to provide a safe working environment.

Report unsafe work practices call 92286900 or email safety@cfmeuwa.com

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These regulations and codes are put in place to prevent falls through unprotected penetrations and edges include the following:

- Cover floor penetrations and ensure covers that can prevent objects and personnel falling through are secured. Signs stating "DANGER HOLE BENEATH" must be affixed
- 4 mm mesh embedded in the concrete floor. The hole must also be covered to prevent things falling through. There are requirements for wire mesh in Regulation 3.54(2). See Appendix 3.
- Erect guardrail systems with toe boards or screens and display warning signs
- Install purpose built guarding systems to protect workers near penetrations and holes
- Use fall from height prevention systems such as scaffolding or fall arrest harnesses systems.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act & Regulations require employers to provide a safe working environment and protect workers from injury while engaged on construction projects.

Before work commences, all locations and tasks that may involve the risk of a fall need to be identified. This includes access and egress to the areas where tasks are to be performed.

Each specific task needs a risk assessment to determine whether there is a risk of falling and what controls are required. Always use the Hierarchy of Controls when selecting a method of control. It is not sufficient to have a safe system of work (e.g. a fall arrest system is available), steps must be taken to ensure compliance with the agreed method. Remember personal Protective Equipment is the last resort

If you are using a fall prevention system that requires the use of a harness you must be trained in working at heights and a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) must be completed prior to the task commencing.

Don't put yourself or others at risk, if unsure contact your site health and safety representative (HSR), your area organiser or CFMEU safety officer Bob Benkesser on mobile 0419 812 875, it's time to organise and take action.

Authorised Mick Buchan State Secretary CFMEU WA 80 Beaufort Street Perth

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