

Working at Height Fines Soaring



Recent Prosecutions Highlighted

Working at height remains one of the biggest causes of fatalities and major injuries within the workplace. Typically accidents from working at height are from ladders and stepladders when they are used incorrectly or from overstretching from benches, chairs or ladders.

Here we highlight recent examples of companies fined for injuries from working at height as a reminder of the dangers staff face. It also covers the implications not only to the individual but also the company if regulations are not adhered to.

Scaffolding Contractor Fined

January 2022 saw a scaffolding contractor fined. The incident saw a worker fall approximately 8m in total through scaffolding, landing on a roof below. This followed a fall to the ground in August 2019. The individual sustained multiple serious injuries. 2 brain haemorrhages, 6 vertebra fractures, a fractured shoulder blade and multiple rib fractures. It was found that the worker was not given

adequate equipment to support them. Further to this, there were failings when planning the dismantling of the over roof.

As a result of this, the company was fined £16,667. On top of this they were ordered to pay costs of £6,767 and a victim surcharge of £170.

Suspended Sentence for Owner of Roofing Firm

A roofing company owner has been given a suspended sentence after continual Health & Safety negligence. The company owner and two workers were replacing roof tiles without any scaffolding or edge protection to prevent any falls from height. The owner failed implement suitable measures to ensure safe working procedures on a number of occasions. The owner previously faced prosecution for a similar offence back in 2012. He was found to be in breach of the [Work of Height Regulations 2005](#). He received a thirteen-month suspended prison sentence, 200 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay costs of £1000.

Roofing Contractor Sentenced

A roofing contractor receives a community order after an unpaid casual worker trying to gain industry experience fell through a skylight on an old asbestos cement roof. He stepped on a fragile skylight, which resulted in him falling 5 and a half metres to the floor. He consequently suffered multiple fractures to his hand and wrist, which required surgical wiring to repair and fractures to his ribs.

It was clear to the court that the individual never previously worked on roofs. Therefore they were lacking any experience. The [HSE](#) also found that the work had not been planned properly, there was a lack of training in supervision of others working at height and no preventative measures where used.

The contractor gave a guilty plea to breaching [Section 9\(2\) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005](#). A 12-month community order followed, including 80 hours of unpaid work, along with costs of £3000.

These rulings show the importance of adhering to regulations and providing the correct level of training and safety equipment to avoid any preventable injuries both fatal and non-fatal.