



WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC URGENT REMINDER ON THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT FALLS FROM HEIGHT				Reference Number: 2024/WSHN/07
Approved by: Acting Director of Compliance and International Division	Endorsed by: Chief Executive Officer	Issue date: 28 th November 2024	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 0

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (**SHENA**) is issuing an urgent reminder to all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed individuals, and workers about the serious risks associated with "**Work at Height**" activities. This is a call to action following four tragic fatalities that had occurred in 2024 caused by falls thereby emphasizing the urgent need for improved safety measures in the workplace especially in the construction industry.

CURRENT SITUATION

There are various circumstances in which an incident related to fall from height can occur, such as working on ladders, scaffolds, rooftops, using makeshift or homemade lifting devices and any other circumstances where there are inadequate safety measures and equipment.

There have been 79 fatalities in the workplace since 2013, with half of these deaths attributable to falls from height. This alarming trend emphasizes the urgency for immediate action to improve safety measures across all sectors to reduce workplace incidents.

Falls from height remain to be the leading cause of work-related fatalities. In 2024 alone, there have been four fatalities in connection with such incidents and 70 reported injuries. The construction industry is particularly affected as it accounts for a significant percentage of these tragic incidents.

ESSENTIAL SAFETY MEASURES

To prevent the recurrence of such incidents, SHENA emphasizes the following safety measures:

- 1. Management Commitment:** Management must lead by example in promoting workplace safety. This includes ensuring workers have received adequate training, providing necessary equipment to workers, and conducting thorough risk assessments of the workplace.

2. **Protective Covers and Barriers:** Ensure that all floor openings are adequately covered or surrounded by barriers whenever feasible.
3. **Utilize Safety Harnesses and Fall Restraints:** Equip workers with safety harnesses and, where necessary, fall restraints, along with suitable safety lines that have secure anchorage.
4. **Guard Rails and Handrails:** Ensure that staircases, platforms, and openings are protected with secure guard rails.
5. **Training and Competency:** Workers engaged in height-related tasks must possess the necessary skills and experience, be competently trained, and adhere to safe work procedures. This includes using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and managing work at height through a comprehensive Risk Management Framework and Fall Preventive Plan.
6. **Proper Equipment Usage:** Always utilize appropriate ladders, scaffolds, and PPE. Regular inspections and maintenance of all equipment are crucial.
7. **Thorough Risk Assessments:** Conduct risk assessments before commencing any height-related tasks to identify and mitigate any potential hazards.
8. **Establish Fall Protection and Emergency Response Plans:** Ensure that effective fall protection measures are implemented, which include guard rails, safety nets, and personal fall arrest systems, along with comprehensive emergency response procedures.
9. **Report on Unsafe Conditions:** Workers must promptly report any unsafe conditions or practices to their supervisors. Maintaining a safe working environment is a collective responsibility.

GUIDANCE RESOURCES

All principals, employers, occupiers and self-employed persons are highly encouraged to refer to the relevant Industrial Guidance Notes (IGN) ([Link I](#) and [link II](#)), [Workplace Safety and Health Notices \(WSHN\)](#) and [Note to Industry \(NTI\)](#) that specifically address fall prevention for Work at Height.

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

SHENA will continue to monitor workplace safety of all workplaces through regulatory inspections. Serious violations of workplace safety may result in legal action, which includes issuing Remedial Orders, Stop Work Order and Legal Prosecution.

All stakeholders are urged to review and enhance their safety practices to ensure compliance with the Workplace Safety and Health Act, Chapter 277, and its regulations made thereunder.

REPORT ON UNSAFE CONDITIONS

All public members, including workers and bystanders, are encouraged to actively report any unsafe conditions or acts they may observe. Reports can be made directly to the SHENA website via the “Reporting of Concerns” button.

For further clarifications concerning this Workplace Safety and Health Notice, please submit your enquiries by clicking “General Enquiries” at the SHENA website: www.shena.gov.bn or contact the SHENA office on the general number +673 238 2000 within office hours. SHENA would like to thank all stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

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