

Safety and health alert

02/94 Fall from unguarded stairway landing

Incident

On Tuesday 1 February 1994 an employee working in Belhus fell about 2.7m from an unguarded 1st floor stairway landing to the ground floor.

The employee sustained fractures to both wrists, multiple abrasions and soft tissue damage to the neck.

Factors

The site inspection revealed that the stairway landing had not been guarded in compliance with the requirements of slp.wa.gov.au, which states that the main contractor must ensure that a guardrail having toprail, midrail and kickboard (or mesh panel), is provided and kept in place if a person can fall 2 or more metres from the edge of a landing, scaffold, fixed stairs, suspended slab, or formwork.

Recommendations

All the relevant housing construction industry authorities should inform their members or registered builders of the relevant regulation requirements since falls from heights is a very significant contributor to the Lost Time Injuries occurring in Western Australia each year.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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