

Safety and health alert

03/94 Risk of persons falling from a height

Incident

On 2 March 1994, two certificated riggers were walking the top chord of a steel truss 20 metres high placing purlins, another rigger was fixing the bridging members between purlins. Neither of the riggers were provided with any form of protection from falling.

Factors

A prohibition notice was issued to the principal contractor to provide a safe system of work that would prevent a person from falling to the ground.

Systems that could have been used are:-

Design planning - working platforms;

- stable floor level for Elevated Work Platforms;
- anchor points for static lines; and
- ground assembly of component prior to lifting.

Scaffolding

- Fall arrest equipment
- Safety nets

Recommendations

Part 3, Division 5 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* requires that if a person can fall three (3) or more metres from an edge, then he or she must be provided with edge protection of a fall injury prevention system.

Section 19 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* places an obligation on an employer to;

" so far as is practicable, provide and maintain a working environment in which his employees are not exposed to hazards".

The immediate hazard associated with "rigging work" is the risk of falling and is a key priority area for prevention strategies by this Department.



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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