

Toolbox Talk

76. Working at Height



What?

- Working at height does not necessarily mean working above ground level. The new Regulations define working at heights as applicable when work activities produce a possibility of a fall liable to cause injury. A place is 'at height' if a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level. It is extremely important to select the right working platform when working at height depending on the task being carried out

Why?

- In 2008/09 falls from height accounted for 46 fatal accidents at work and around 3350 major injuries. They remain the single biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injury.
- In many accidents involving falls from height ladders were being used when the task required a tower scaffold or MEWP or the ladder had not been secured properly to prevent slipping



Do



- ✓ Avoid working from height if the work can be done some other way
- ✓ Make sure you select the right equipment for the task
- ✓ Check the equipment for damage or defects before use
- ✓ Make sure you are trained and competent to erect it properly
- ✓ Check that you have erected it properly before using it
- ✓ Ensure if wearing a harness that it 's always connected
- ✓ Report any damage to equipment used for working at height

Don't



- ✗ Work near leading edges
- ✗ Work in adverse weather conditions
- ✗ Work at height without the proper equipment
- ✗ Climb the structure always use a ladder
- ✗ Use defective equipment
- ✗ Forget to secure ladders properly
- ✗ Work with your harness unconnected



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