

# STOP & THINK

## Week 11 – Falls From Height



Whilst looking on the One Safety Hub I came across an interesting and rather hard-hitting Safety Bulletin from Interserve on Falls from Height. “Falls continue to be the biggest cause of fatal injury in Britain’s workplaces, with 34 of the 72 worker deaths in construction in 2007/08(p) resulting from a fall from height. On top of this, over 4,000 major injuries such as broken bones or fractured skulls are reported to HSE each year by the construction industry. Over half of these serious injuries involve falls from height or from tripping over materials on walkways and are easily preventable.” HSE website.

A reminder that under the [Work at Height Regulations 2005](#) there is a hierarchy of control measure when working at height:

1. Avoid working at height if possible
2. Use an existing safe place of work
3. Provide work equipment to prevent falls
4. Mitigate distance and consequences of a fall
5. Instruction and training and/or other means.

The Safety Bulletin from Interserve captures this hierarchy with associated examples. Take a moment to review - <http://www.onesafetyhub.co.uk/Partners/InterserveConstruction/Lists/OSHLibrary/interserve-alert-working-at-height.pdf>

What’s really depressing is the schedule at the rear of the bulletin which captures fatal accidents in construction during 2010. If that doesn’t make you stop and think, and then re-read the above hierarchy, I’m not sure what will..

As designers we have an influence on the construction, operation and maintenance methodology. As outlined in B&V’s Guidance Note [GA453A Working at Height Guidance](#) “In the preparation of designs for permanent or temporary works, designers should endeavour to eliminate or minimise, where reasonably practicable, the need for work at height during the construction, use and maintenance of the structure or installation. Process A320 applies. Where work at height cannot be eliminated as part of the design process, the requirement for the erection of working platforms must be considered. Where the use of a working platform is not reasonably practicable, this information will need to be included in the details that will be supplied to the CDM Co-ordinator and Principal Contractor.”. Refer to [GA320A CDM REGULATIONS: DUTIES OF DESIGNERS](#) for more information.

As you’re aware, when undertaking any design work a good starting point is [ERICPD](#):

**E**liminate   **R**educe   **I**solate   **C**ontrol   **P**PE   **D**iscipline

For further information:

**B&V iNet (PROSYS)**

Safety alerts on the subject:

<http://bvinet/C10/HealthSafety/Lists/Safety%20Alerts%20Announcements/DispForm.aspx?ID=171&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fbvinet%2FC10%2FHealthSafety%2Fdefault%2Easpx>

<http://bvinet/C13/C4/Work%20at%20Height/default.aspx>

**HSE**

For more details on the [Work at Height Regulation 2005](#), refer to the HSE Brief Guide linked below. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 [1] came into force on 6 April 2005. The Regulations apply to all work at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury.

**A question or two to get you thinking!**

What does height mean ?  
Isn't this something the site team or Supply Chain or non-designers have to worry about ?