

SAFETY ALERT

75 Reported Working At Height Near Misses

From the beginning of the year we have had 75 reported near misses in relation to working at height. 10 of these near misses have occurred in May with a further two minor injuries and 1 major injury being reported in May.

Tower scaffolds have featured prominently in the incidents that have occurred, the most serious being a scaffold tower overturning whilst 2 operatives were working on the platform, this resulted in both operatives falling onto a concrete floor, luckily they only received minor injuries but the outcome could have been far more serious for both operatives involved.

The following must be considered when planning any work at height

1. Do we have to carry out the work at height and can this be minimised
2. Has the most suitable equipment been selected
3. Have the risks of working at height been assessed and control measures put in place
4. Have the people erecting and using the equipment had the correct training and are competent
5. Have the correct inspections and maintenance been carried out and recorded prior and during use

Although scaffold towers are very versatile pieces of equipment they must be treated with respect, if used on anything other than level surfaces e. g. sloping floors the supplier should be consulted for advise on the maximum gradient the tower is safe to be used on.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISOR IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

Incident:	Near Misses	Site:	
Date:	27 th June 2011		
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