

GAP Tool Box Talk: Working at Height



The Facts

Falls from height

- 39 work related fatalities in 2013/14
- Over 6000 serious injuries or RIDDOR reportable accidents as a result of falls from height in 2013/14
- Falls from height are the second most common type of RIDDOR accident

IT'S ALL PREVENTABLE

* RIDDOR = Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013

Legislation

Work at Height Regulations 2005

How the legislation helps

- Collectively a broad approach which involves everyone and gives clear guidance
- Provides focus on 3 stages of risk assessment

AVOID, PREVENT AND MINIMISE

Factor 1

Applies to anyone, anywhere working at height

Meaning:

- All employees, sub-contractors & self-employed
- On site, in an office, warehouse or shop floor
- Above and below ground at any height

Factor 2 - Avoid, Prevent, Minimise

AVOID

- Working at height if possible
- Using equipment which can be extended where possible

PREVENT

- Should you have to work at height ensure you PREVENT falls
- Podiums are fitted with guard rails and offer greater stability than steps

MINIMISE

- What happens when someone falls
- Fall arrest equipment (last resort)

Factor 3

Selection of the correct equipment - never 'make do'

Consider the following

- Working environment, weather conditions, the ground
- The duration and frequency of the job
- Working at height and dimensions of equipment
- Fall potential (distance of fall)
- The risks of erecting/dismantling equipment

Factor 4

Access Towers

- Erected by competent persons
- Ensure Guardrails, toe boards, stabilisers and intermediate platforms are fitted
- Carry out inspections when moved or changed

Ladders

- Only use for low risk and short duration tasks
- Only for temporary access
- Ensure correct angle and secure
- Always ensure 3 physical points of contact

Factor 5

Competence & Planning

- Equipment used must be inspected and it's use supervised by a competent person
- Never assume competence, if in doubt ask for advice or training
- Never work at height unless competent



Factor 6

Safety At Work Is Your Responsibility

- Identify possible hazards i.e. falling objects, fragile surfaces
- Identify and mark dangerous areas
- Ensure dangers are reported to a supervisor



**‘THINK SAFETY – ACT SAFELY
OTHERS WILL DO THE SAME’**

**AVOID, PREVENT, MINIMISE
EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE!**

