



Prosecutions

EDF Energy Fined for Fatal Fall from Mobile Scaffolding

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is urging companies to re-examine their working from height practices after a firm was fined for the death of an employee.

This warning comes after the HSE's successful prosecution of EDF Energy Contracting Ltd at Chichester Crown Court. The company pleaded guilty to breaching regulations 4b and 4c of the [Work at Height Regulations 2005](#) and was fined £160,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £24,594.98.

It relates to an incident on 2 August 2007 when employee James Gordon was dismantling a mobile tower scaffold in the sports hall of Worthing High School in West Sussex. The scaffolding had been used to carry out high-level maintenance to lighting and heating appliances within the sports hall. At the time, EDF Energy Contracting Ltd was contracted by West Sussex County Council.

The top working platform had been removed and Mr Gordon was on an intermediate platform when it appears that he stumbled. There were no handrails to save him and he fell more than five meters, suffering fatal head injuries.

HSE Inspector Russell Beckett said:

"It is important that all tower scaffolds are erected and dismantled correctly and that guard rails are fitted so as to prevent falls. All too often tower scaffolds are used incorrectly without the correct handrails. All working platforms must be provided with suitable edge protection. Guard rails should be at least 950mm high and an intermediate guard rail should be provided so that workers can not fall through any unprotected gaps".

Farm Employee Falls Through Roof

Employers are being warned to take correct precautions when their staff work at height, after a farm employee sustained serious injuries when he fell nearly five metres through a roof he was working on.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has successfully prosecuted Francis Caley, of Manor Farm, Sproatley Road, Hull, for breaching section 2(1) of the [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#), over the incident in May 2008. Mr Caley pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £1,858 costs at Hull and Holderness Magistrates Court.

The court heard that farm employee Charles Leslie Nendick fell through a roof whilst carrying out repairs on 13 May 2008. He suffered fractures to his spine, pelvis and hip, as well as a gash to his head. Mr Nendick's employer, Mr Caley failed to take suitable precautions to prevent a fall through the roof, which was not strong enough to support the weight of a person.