

# Firms fined over £600k after dad dies from fall

A further two companies have been fined after a dad died following a fall from the roof of a building site in Warrington.

Father-of-one Dennis Vincent, 36, and another worker were using ropes to install a lightning protection system to the front of an office block being converted into flats.

Mr Vincent, who was from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was lowering the access equipment from the roof, using a rope attached to a frame at roof level and a handrail at ground level. As he did so, both he and the frame fell from the roof to the ground.

The incident happened on 24 February 2021 at Palmyra House, Palmyra Square in Warrington.

Inco Contracts Limited and Prestige Security Installations Limited were fined on Thursday after a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation.



The companies were found guilty of breaching health and safety regulations following a three-week trial at Liverpool Crown Court earlier this year. In February, [PTSG Electrical Services Limited, Mr Vincent's employer, was fined £120,000 after the company failed to adequately assess the risks associated with the working at height.](#)

The HSE investigation found that Inco Contracts Limited, the principal contractor for the project, and Prestige Security Installations Limited, the contractor in control of the electrical installation package, failed to ensure that the lightning protection work was properly planned and failed in their duties to manage and monitor the work to ensure it was carried out safely. Due consideration had not been given to safer methods of working at height, such as the use of scaffolding or a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP), and the workers had been given no instruction or safe means of getting their equipment down from the roof.

HSE guidance can be found at: [Work at height – HSE](#)

Inco Contracts Limited, of Dunston Business Village, Stafford Road, Dunston, Stafford, Staffordshire, was found guilty of breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay £58,448 in costs at Liverpool Crown Court on 30 November 2023.

Prestige Security Installations Limited, of Sycamore Lane, Great Sankey, Warrington, was found guilty of breaching Regulation 15(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay £15,000 in costs at Liverpool Crown Court on 30 November 2023.

HSE inspector Sara Andrews said: "It is vitally important that work at height is properly planned; where it isn't, the risks can lead to the most serious of consequences. As such, duties are placed on all those involved in construction work to ensure that the risks are properly assessed and suitable control measures are implemented.

"Principal contractors and contractors should be aware that appointing subcontractors with specific specialisms does not remove the duty that they have to ensure the work has been properly planned and can be undertaken safely.

"Had Inco Contracts Limited and Prestige Security Installations Limited properly reviewed PTSG Electrical Services Limited's proposals for carrying out the work, they could have ensured suitable controls were in place prior to work starting and this tragic incident could have been avoided.

"Our thoughts remain with the family of Dennis Vincent, a husband and father, who did not return home on 24 February 2021 because of the significant failings of these three companies."

## **Notes to editors**

1. [The Health and Safety Executive](#) (HSE) is Britain's national regulator

for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise.

2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.

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## Man “lucky to be alive” after incident at luxury yacht maker in Plymouth

A premium yacht makers has been hit with a £600,000 fine after one of its workers suffered life changing injuries at its shipyard in Plymouth.

Mark Gillen’s wife Sarah said she is lucky to still have her husband around after he sustained a catalogue of injuries, including 12 broken ribs and a severed right arm, when a staging platform weighing approximately one tonne, toppled over and fell on top of him.

The 54-year-old, who had worked for the company for 26 years, also suffered bleeds on the brain and remained in hospital for several months.



Mark Gillen sustained life changing injuries when a staging platform toppled over and on top of him

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found the platform fell due to one of the front wheels hitting a divot in a concrete surface. Mark had been part of a team working on a 72-foot vessel at the company's Southyard site when the incident happened on 9 November 2021.

Sarah Gillen said: "Our worlds were turned upside down the day Mark had the catastrophic crush accident, leaving him with life changing injuries. He simply went to work that morning, and while he was eventually able to come home, our lives will never be the same.

"We are incredibly lucky to still have him with us but there is no denying that the road to recovery has been, and continues to be, extremely difficult and challenging.

"We are very grateful to the team at the HSE for all the work that has gone into holding Princess Yachts to account. However, the sad reality is that no fine, no matter how significant, will ever truly reflect the pain and ongoing suffering that Mark and our family has been through."



Mark had been part of a team working on a 72-foot vessel at the company's Southyard site when the incident happened

HSE enforcement lawyer Andy Siddall told Plymouth Magistrates' Court how on the day, finished mouldings were being moved from the firm's Southyard site to their one on Newport Street for fit-out. Staging platforms were used extensively by the company to form a safe and stable work at height platform that surrounds a moulding and later a boat whilst it is the manufacturing stage. As Mark and two of his colleagues began to push the platform, one of the front wheels hit a divot in the concrete surface, causing it to topple and fall on top of him. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, Mark was then airlifted to hospital.



The staging platform weight approximately one tonne

Sarah went on to say that before the incident Mark had been a fit, healthy strong and determined man.

“He had enjoyed weight training, boxing gym, cycling and playing golf with friends and a very active social life” she said.

“Now though, he is in constant chronic nerve pain which affects his ability to participate in the things he once loved, which in turn has a huge detrimental impact on his health and wellbeing.

“It is our hope that today’s outcome will act as a wakeup call to Princess Yachts and other companies about the devastating and serious consequences of health and safety failings in the workplace, and that lessons are learnt that could prevent others being injured, or worse, in similar circumstances.”



The front wheel of the staging platform hit a divot in the concrete surface which caused it to topple over

The HSE investigation found that there was a failure to assess the risks

associated with moving staging platforms manually through the external yard. Had this been done, it would have identified the uneven ground as a hazard that required controlling. The risks could have been further eliminated by prohibiting the manual moving of the platforms and requiring any external movement to be carried out by forklift trucks.

Princess Yacht Limited of Newport Street Plymouth pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 2 (1). The company was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,146.

HSE inspector Paul Mannell echoed the comments made by Mark's wife Sarah: "Mark Gillen is lucky to be alive.

"The company should have had measures in place to ensure that mobile staging was never pushed through the yard by hand.

"As the measures taken post-accident clearly show, it would have been reasonably practicable to have had them in place when Mr Gillen was injured.

"They were implemented immediately after the accident at no cost to the company.

"The failure to have in place a safe system of work resulted in a life changing injury to a loyal employee who had worked for the company for 26 years."

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## **[Philip White to lead Building Safety Regulator in permanent role](#)**

Philip White, HSE's Director of Building Safety (DoBS), will continue in his current role leading the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) on a permanent basis.

Philip has been leading the work to fully establish the BSR in HSE since taking over from Peter Baker in April 2023.

Ahead of the BSR becoming fully operational next year, the permanent appointment will ensure continuity for the programme as well as strong and experienced leadership at a vital stage of developing the new regulatory regime.



Philip White will lead BSR on a permanent basis

As HSE's DoBS, Philip will continue to perform the duties of the Chief Inspector of buildings working closely with BSR's statutory industry and resident committees to ensure both industry and residents are heard at the heart of the new regime.

He will keep the programme on course to deliver against agreed timelines and milestones including championing the need for culture change in industry and highlighting the need for collective responsibility to improve building safety.

Philip's extensive regulatory experience and proven leadership will be vital to the success of the BSR in the coming years, ensuring the strength of HSE continues to be brought to bear in creating an effective regulator that's fit for purpose for the future.

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## [Recycling company fined after worker's arm dragged into machine](#)

A recycling company in Weston-super-Mare has been fined £24,000 after one of

its workers suffered serious injuries after his arm was dragged into a machine.

The 34-year-old local man suffered multiple fractures to his right arm that required surgery to repair. He had stopped a conveyor belt to remove some trapped material and his arm became trapped when a colleague inadvertently re-started the machine.

The man had been working for New West Gypsum Recycling (UK) Limited when the incident happened on 11 November 2021. His arm became entangled in the trapping point between a conveyor belt and the rotating drum powering the movement of the belt.



The man had been working for New West Gypsum Recycling (UK) Limited when the incident happened on 11 November 2021

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that dangerous parts of the conveyor were not properly guarded and were easily accessible to employees. The company did not have adequate procedures for electrical isolation and locking off machinery before working on it.

Taunton Magistrates heard that the company had failed to fit the machine with adequate guards to prevent access to dangerous parts and failed to implement a suitable procedure, for isolating and locking off the machine from the power supply, before starting any intervention to remove blockages.



The man's arm became entangled in



the trapping point between a conveyor belt and the rotating drum powering the movement of the belt

New West Gypsum Recycling (UK) Limited, of The Taxiway, Weston-super-Mare, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 2 of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974. They were fined £24,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,600 at Taunton Magistrates Court.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Dawn Lawrence said “This incident was completely preventable.

“The injuries sustained could have been much worse and should never have happened. Failure to securely isolate and lock off is a primary cause of many machinery incidents in the waste industry.

“Companies shouldn’t overlook important machinery safety basics, including adequate guards to prevent access to dangerous parts and a suitable procedure for isolating and locking off the machine from the power supply before starting any intervention.”

The case was prosecuted by HSE enforcement lawyer Samantha Wells and supported by HSE paralegal officer Helen Jacob.

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## **[Cold weather working: Helping staff stay safe and warm](#)**

Employers are being reminded of their responsibilities to keep workers safe as the first spell of cold weather is set to hit the country.

Great Britain’s workplace regulator, the Health and Safety Executive, is stressing the importance of [protecting workers during the cold weather](#). It

comes as the Met Office has issued a yellow weather warning for ice and snow for parts of the UK.

John Rowe, Head of Operational Strategy, said: "We're calling on all employers to take a sensible approach during the cold weather that is coming our way. There are lots of jobs that will be more difficult in these conditions. Most employers will recognise this and make appropriate accommodations for their staff. That is the right thing to do.

"It's also important employers ensure staff are working in a reasonable temperature. People working in uncomfortably cold environments are less likely to perform well and more likely to behave unsafely because their ability to make good decisions deteriorates."

Temperatures in indoor workplaces are covered by the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, which place a legal obligation on employers to provide a "reasonable" temperature in the workplace.

All employers are expected to ensure indoor workplaces are kept at a reasonable temperature. [The Approved Code of Practice](#) suggests the minimum temperature should normally be at least 16 degrees Celsius. If the work involves rigorous physical effort, the temperature should be at least 13 degrees Celsius.

John Rowe added: "Complying with the code of practice is the right thing for an employer to do. By maintaining a reasonable temperature, employers are likely to maintain the morale and productivity of their staff as well as improving health and safety."

**Ends**