

North Yorkshire company fined after contractor falls from height

A company specialising in the installation of biomass heating systems and photovoltaic solar systems was sentenced today after a worker suffered a serious injury following a fall from height.

Beverley Magistrates court heard how, on 27 March 2015, an operative was installing a flue system for a biomass heating system at a farm in North Yorkshire. He had attempted to work from a ladder at the side of the outbuilding but when this proved ineffectual, he resorted to climbing onto the roof to complete the works. Whilst working on the roof, the operative fell a distance of around 2 metres through the fragile cement sheet, suffering injuries including broken bones in the left ankle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to adequately plan the installation of the heating system and the necessary work at height. Furthermore, the investigation found the company failed to provide suitable work at height equipment such as a mobile elevated work platform, edge protection, crawl boards, a roof ladder or scaffolding.

Duncan Plumbing Heating and Electrics Ltd of Rudgate Business Park, Tockwith, North Yorkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has been fined £32,000 and ordered to pay £2,424.60 in costs

After the hearing, HSE inspector James Harvey commented: "Work at height, such as roof work, is a high-risk activity that accounts for a high proportion of workplace serious injuries and fatalities each year.

"This case highlights the importance of following well-known industry guidance to plan and assess the work at height requirements needed to complete the work safely."

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. hse.gov.uk^[1]
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/ ^[2]
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>^[3]

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional

press releases.