

[Builder fined after contractor suffers life-changing injuries in fall from roof](#)

A builder has been sentenced after a contractor fell eight metres from a roof at a site in Hove.

Brighton Magistrates Court heard how on the 28 June 2019, Mark Bucknall was working with another man to install rooflights to the flat roof of a loft conversion in Hove. To access the roof, they had to climb out of a window and up the original tiled roof.

When returning inside the property, the worker slipped and fell landing in the concrete yard of the neighbouring property. He sustained multiple fractures to his spine and right leg, and a fractured left heel and wrist. He is still recovering from the injuries and it is unknown if he will regain mobility.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that the work was not properly planned. Earlier in the project, scaffold had been erected, but it was removed before the rooflights were delivered. No consideration was given to falling from the edge of the flat roof whilst installing the rooflights, or how they would safely access the roof.

Mark Bucknall of Holmes Avenue, Hove pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £1,760, ordered to pay £2,000 costs and £170 victim surcharge.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Stephen Green, said “The worker’s injuries are life changing and he could have easily been killed. This serious incident and devastation could have been avoided if basic means to enable safe access and prevent falls, such as the scaffolding used earlier in the project, had been in place.”

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

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Company fined after subcontractor falls from height

Solar panel company Blue Sun Energy Limited was sentenced today for safety breaches after a self-employed labourer fell through a rooflight.

Leeds Magistrates' Court heard that on 13 December 2018, the 34-year-old, was working on behalf of and under the control of Blue Sun Energy Ltd when he fell approximately 3.5 metres through an unmarked and unguarded fragile surface (rooflight) into the shed below.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the worker was undertaking snagging work relating to the installation of solar panels on the roof of a cowshed at Home Farm Gargrave, Skipton. He stepped onto one of the roof lights and fell through it. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, fractured shoulder and severe bruising. He has yet to return to work.

Blue Sun Energy Limited of Avenue Road, Queniborough, Leicester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company has been fined £38,019 and ordered to pay £1,071 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Ben Caines said: "Falls from height often result in life-changing or fatal injuries. In most cases, these incidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning the work to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place such as edge protection or coverings built to the correct standard.

"This incident could have easily been prevented if the company had installed adequate edge protection or covered the opening to prevent falls."

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Recycling company fined after worker suffered life threatening injuries

EPS Materials Recovery Limited has been fined after a worker suffered injuries to his face and head when he was struck by a ball of compressed metal weighing approximately half a tonne. The metal was being used as a brush attached to the grab of a 360 degree excavator machine.

Swansea Magistrates' Court heard how on 8 May 2019, the employee was working in the vicinity of the grab machine. The driver swung the arm to the location of the employee and dropped the brush, in doing this the brush fell onto the worker striking him on the back and causing him to hit the floor with force. He suffered a fractured skull, a fractured eye-socket and fractured cheek bone.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to adequately segregate pedestrians and operating vehicles. Site induction procedures and training for new starters was inadequate. There wasn't any direct supervision for new starters to prevent access to the dangerous parts of machinery or to stop dangerous parts before access was gained.

EPS Materials Recovery Limited of Griagola Wharf, King's Dock, Swansea, was found guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and were fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,059.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Wayne Williams, said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of work.

"There is industry-produced guidance for this type of activity, which demonstrates how short the company fell of the required standard. If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

The industry guidance for Hand sorting of Recyclables (Totting) with Vehicle Assistance can be found here:

<https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-18-.pdf>.

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[Logistics company fined after a worker was injured in explosion](#)

A&D Logistics Limited, a national logistics haulier, has been fined after a worker suffered flash burn injuries when there was an explosion as he opened the door of a container.

Paisley Sheriff Court heard how, on 7 January 2019, a team leader was requested by a member of the management team to dry out condensation from the office accommodation container. The custom and practice within the yard was to use a propane fuelled open-flame gas torch attached to a 47Kg LPG cylinder which was left burning within the container.

The team leader did this work and returned four hours later to check on progress of the container. The door appeared closed further than when he had left it. He opened the door by putting his hand in the gap between the doors and pulling. There was an explosion and he was thrown by force against a steel workshop container. Whilst on the ground he saw his arms burning, saw they were on fire, and felt the same of his face and hair.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company allowed the gas torch and propane cylinder to be left unattended with the torch lit whilst the team leader attended other work. The container did not contain sufficient oxygen to support safe combustion because of inadequate ventilation. Yard personnel had no 'hot work' training. The workwear worn by the team leader was not suitable for 'hot work' activities. Formal training and instruction for drying out wet containers with a propane gas torch was absent.

A&D Logistics Limited, Pegasus Avenue, Linwood, Paisley pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 of the Health and Safety at work etc Act 1974 and was fined £48,000.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Tom Allan said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out control measures and safe working practices."

“Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”

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[Scaffolding company fined after scaffolding collapsed](#)

A scaffolding company has been fined for safety failings after scaffolding collapsed on to a street in Maidenhead while it was being dismantled.



High Wycombe Magistrates Court heard how the collapse could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life.

An investigation was carried out by the Health and Safety Executive following the incident that occurred on the 30 April 2018. It was found that the underlying cause of the scaffold collapse was a lack of training and adequate instruction.

The worker carrying out the dismantling of the scaffold and removal of the scaffold ties was not adequately trained. Subsequent high winds acting upon the monoflex sheeting on the day of the collapse caused then caused scaffold to act as a "giant sail" and subsequently toppled over into the street.

Formula Scaffolding (London) Limited of Church Lane, Chessington was found guilty in their absence to breaching section 3(1) of Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and have been fined £160 000.00 and ordered to pay costs of £11 533.36

After the hearing, HSE Inspector John Caboche commented: "This was a very serious incident and it is fortunate nobody was injured as a result of it.

"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working, ensure that their workforce is adequately trained and provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. For more information on scaffold safety go to: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/scaffoldinginfo.htm>

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