

Roofing company and director prosecuted after skylight fall

A roofing and building company, and its director, have been sentenced after an employee fell through a skylight.

North East Derbyshire & Dales Magistrates' Court heard that on 26 March 2018, an employee was carrying out replacement work on the fragile roof of a stable block when he fell through a skylight at Owler Lee Farm, Dronfield. He had stepped from newly fitted metal sheets onto a Youngman board on the skylights. The lower end of the board went through the skylight and he fell around 15 feet to the floor below, resulting in fractures to his knee, elbow and wrist.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Ian Wilkinson, the director of Weathervane Roofing & Building Limited, did not adequately plan the work at height, which meant there was no safe system of work in place for removal and replacement of the fragile roof of the stable building. As a result, there were inadequate measures in place for preventing falls through the fragile roof, or from one of the roof edges, and there was nothing in place to catch the operatives and prevent them from hitting the ground in the event of a fall.

Weathervane Roofing & Building Limited of Vicarage Close, Holmesfield pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation, 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company has been fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,125.70.

Mr Ian Wilkinson of Vicarage Close, Holmesfield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was sentenced to a 12-month community order with 160 hours of unpaid work. He was ordered to pay costs of £1,125.40.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Laura Royales said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known. Whilst the injuries sustained by the operative in this case were serious, it is only by chance that they were not fatal. Those in control of work at height must ensure that the work is properly planned and that suitable measures are implemented for preventing falls, or for mitigating the effects of a fall."

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>

The post [Roofing company and director prosecuted after skylight fall](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

Company director fined after worker impaled on a spike

Hafeez Ghafoor, formerly a director of the now-dissolved landscaping company R K United Ltd, has been sentenced for safety breaches after a worker suffered life changing injuries.

Leeds Crown Court heard that on 25 August 2016, an employee of R K United Ltd was using a lorry loader crane to deliver a load of soil to a new house on Otley Road, in Leeds. As he brought the crane arm down, his left arm was impaled on a spike which was protruding from the control system. The impact caused several bones in his arm to be shattered.





An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the crane had severe defects, including a disabled safety system, and part of the safety guard around the controls had been cut off, leaving the spike on which his arm was impaled. In addition, the worker had not received appropriate training to operate the lorry loader crane.

Hafeez Ghafoor of Park Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37 of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Mr Ghafoor was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years and ordered to complete 200 hours of community service.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Yolande Burns-Sleightholme commented: "This injury was easily preventable, and the risk should have been identified.

"The lorry loader crane should have been properly maintained, regular inspections carried out, and a thorough examination taken place every twelve months. The disabled safety system would have been found during the examination, ensuring that this incident could not have occurred."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/^[2]
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>^[3]
4. Please see the link below to the page on HSE's website that is the best guide to doing it the right way: <http://www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance>

The post [Company director fined after worker impaled on a spike](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Roofing contractor company fined after fatal ladder fall](#)

An Aberdeen based roofing contractor has been fined after an employee fell to his death from a ladder while exiting a scaffold at Jute Street in the city.

Aberdeen Sheriff Court heard that on 21 September 2016, Joseph Kane, an employee of Henderson and Aitken Limited fell from the top rungs of a ladder when it slipped sideways on the scaffold. Mr Kane died of multiple injuries.

The scaffolding had been erected by Henderson and Aitken Limited employees and the ladder was tied, using a blue nylon cord, to the scaffold ledger at only the left stile.



Unsafe scaffold at Jute Street

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) specialist inspector that carried out the investigation estimated the lateral movement of the ladder due to the lack of fixity was approximately 20cm.

HSE found a Henderson and Aitken Limited employee had erected the scaffold even though he was not a qualified or competent scaffolder. He had been asked to do this by the company director who was aware he was unqualified. The director then allowed three people to access the scaffold. The scaffold was not erected to the correct standard.

Henderson and Aitken Limited of 6 Balmoral Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 6HH pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of Work at Height Regulations 2005 and Section 33(1)(c) of HSWA and was fined £53,000.

Speaking after the hearing HSE Principal Inspector Niall Miller said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work-related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known.

"This tragic and preventable death highlights the need for those undertaking work at height to ensure that it is carried out safely, that industry guidance is followed and that the relevant regulations are complied with. It is vitally important that those planning and arranging for such work give sufficient regard to the risks posed to workers and members of the public through their actions."

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[Lancashire furniture manufacturer](#)

fined after worker injured by machinery

A furniture manufacturer, A and L Furnishings Ltd, has been fined after an employee was injured whilst operating unguarded machinery.

Preston Magistrates' Court heard that on 19 March 2018, the employee had been using a horizontal drilling machine to make parts for a chair at the company site in Leyland when the fingers of his left hand came into contact with unguarded counter-rotating drill bits and became entangled. The incident caused extensive damage to his left hand, resulting in the amputation of two fingers.



The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that it was possible for employees to reach the dangerous parts of the horizontal drilling machine when it was in operation as A and L Furnishings Ltd had failed to provide a suitable guard for the machine.

A and L Furnishings Ltd of Leyland, Lancashire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and has been fined of £14,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5500.85.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Anthony Banks said:

“The dangers of unguarded machinery are well-known. If A and L Furnishings Ltd had ensured that suitable guarding was in place, then this incident would have been avoided.

“Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action when the required standards are not met.”

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The post [Lancashire furniture manufacturer fined after worker injured by machinery](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Man sentenced after illegal gas work in Cornish home](#)

A self-employed builder has been found guilty and sentenced today after conducting gas work he was not registered or competent to do and leaving it in a dangerous condition.

Plymouth Magistrates’ Court heard how in March 2018 Christopher Finley, sole director of Centreline Building Services Ltd, quoted for a kitchen re-fit which included the installation of a Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) hob at a property in Cornwall. He undertook this work and installed a new LPG gas hob. There was no paperwork left with the customer.

When the client found faults with the hob, she attempted to make contact with Mr Finley and requested the gas safety certificate, but no response was received. A properly registered gas engineer later inspected the work and

found it to be of poor standard and classed it as 'At Risk'. It was found that Mr Finley had left the LPG hob that he fitted in a dangerous state. He had failed to change the injectors from those fitted for natural gas to those required for LPG. There was therefore too much gas being supplied at the hob which could have resulted in a fire and explosion.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Finley was not and never has been a member of Gas Safe Register. He was not registered or competent to undertake gas work. He should have used a registered gas engineer to undertake the gas work element of the kitchen refit.

Christopher Finley of Crockington Lane, Wolverhampton was found guilty of breaching Regulations 3(1), 3(3) and 26(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He has been given a six month suspended sentence on each breach, ordered to do 160 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay costs of £7505.40.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Simon Jones said: "Mr Finley undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do.

"All gas work must be done by a registered Gas Safe engineer to ensure the highest standards are met to prevent injury and loss of life."

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