

15/02/2019

## Serious Injury

- **Incident date:** 12/12/2018
- **Event:** Fall from height
- **Location:** Denham Court

### Incident Overview

A worker fell from a height while installing roof & guttering on a house in Denham Court, sustaining hand and shoulder injuries.

SafeWork NSW and NSW Police responded to the incident to investigate and make the site safe.



Image: the location on the site the worker fell through

### The site

The site is located at Denham Court. Activities being done on the site included the construction of a two storey home. The site is under the control of a principal contractor. A sub-contractor had been engaged to install box guttering and roofing.

## The investigation

SafeWork NSW Inspectors responded to the incident.

Our [Prosecution Guidelines \(January 2018\)](#) outline our approach to prosecutions and Safe Work Australia's [National Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#) provides guidance on our approach to compliance. These documents set out factors that will be considered in determining the investigative approach and appropriate outcome.

## Safety Information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in line with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017*.

Each year SafeWork NSW responds to incidents where workers have been exposed to risks associated with falls from heights. Most of these incidents involve unprotected edges or voids.

Businesses are reminded to consider reasonable and practicable control measures to manage the risk of falls from heights including:

- Remove the need to work from heights where possible;
- Use a suitable working platform such as scaffolds, boom lifts or scissor lifts;
- Provide adequate edge protection by using guardrails or perimeter scaffolding;
- Ensure scaffolds are inspected every 30 days and a handover certificate is issued;
- Prevent people accessing incomplete scaffolds;
- Ensure penetrations/voids are covered and clearly marked or have edge protection
- Provide workers with safe means of accessing and exiting work areas;
- Ensure ladders are secured and extend 1m past the landing; and
- Only use fall restraint or fall arrest systems when edge protection or work platforms are not reasonably practicable.

## Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/formwork-and-falsework-guidance-material>
- [Managing the risk of falls at workplaces Code of Practice](#)
- [Preventing falls in housing construction Code of Practice](#)
- [SafeWork Pocket Guide to Construction Safety](#)

## About this information release

SafeWork NSW has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious injury in the construction industry. Investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Users are reminded of the need to ensure any information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of SafeWork NSW or the user's independent adviser. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.

All photographs were taken by SafeWork NSW.

Office use only	
TRIM reference	2018/015136
IER reference	D19/053070
Date published	insert
Authorised by	Rick Bultitude, Director Investigations & Emergency Response