

24/01/2020

# Fall through plastic skylight panel

6 December 2019

## Incident overview

A 31-year-old man suffered critical injuries when he fell more than 10 meters through a plastic roof-panel at a school in Croydon.



Incident Location

## The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

24/01/2020

### Safety Information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risk of falls.

Before starting work on a roof, carry out an inspection to determine:

- the condition of sheeting that shouldn't be walked on, such as a skylight, plastic or asbestos cement sheeting
- the presence and integrity of safety wire mesh
- the suitability of anchor points.

To determine if surfaces are safe to walk on, check the surrounding material, how it's fixed and whether it's brittle.

Make sure you:

- plan the work to avoid walking on brittle material
- work from a solid construction to avoid standing on the roof
- use temporary work platforms, such as crawling boards and ladders
- install barriers, such as guardrails, covers, and warning signs
- install safety mesh
- use a scaffold or scissor/boom lift
- use an adjustable fall-arrest system, such as a harness, with proper anchor points – train workers how to use it.

### More information

- [Code of practice for managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#)
- [Working at heights](#)