



The Safety Guardian

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Man falls through roof, 2 Sheffield firms fined

Two Sheffield firms have been fined after a worker fell through a fragile roof light while removing asbestos at the city's now demolished college.

Mr Nikitas Coulson, 40, from Middlesbrough, broke his arm after falling three and a half metres from a flat roof to the ground below and required surgery following the incident at the former Sheffield College in April last year.

Mr Coulson was part of a team stripping asbestos from Sheffield College before its planned demolition and re-build, and was working on a former teaching block when the incident happened.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted both Mr Coulson's employer, Lilquest Asbestos Management, and the principal contractor for the

project, JF Finnegan Ltd, who were responsible for access to the roof.

Sheffield Magistrates heard that immediately after the incident, the remaining ten roof lights on the flat roof were boarded over, making them safe. The court heard this should have been done prior to any work starting on the roof.

Magistrates fined JF Finnegan, of Ecclesall Road, £15,000 with £5,179.90 costs for failing to provide suitable protection for any fragile surfaces on the roof under the Work at Height Regulations 2005. Lilquest, of Hoyland Road, were fined £3,000 with £2,000 costs for the same offence. Both companies pleaded guilty.

HSE spot visit catches out Brigg roofers

A Brigg firm has been prosecuted after two of its staff were caught working unsafely on a seven metre high roof by two passing Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors. The two roofers were seen carrying out repairs at a building on Lancaster Approach, Immingham, as HSE inspectors were investigating an unrelated case. The inspectors were shocked by the obvious dangers and stopped to take photographs and to issue a prohibition notice to immediately stop the roof repair work. Brigg and Humberside Roofing Services Ltd., of Westrum Lane, Brigg, North

Lincolnshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. They were fined £5,000 with £1,887 in costs. The HSE said the company had failed to provide suitable equipment to prevent a fall from or through the roof, such as a mobile elevating platform or standard platform with handrails. Grimsby magistrates was told the men 's employers had not provided safeguards or equipment for the two workers. The risks, including the potentially fragile condition of the roof, had not been adequately considered.

Don' let a fall shatter your life

'Since 2001, an average of 50 people in Great Britain have died each year as a result of a fall from height and a further 8,702 are seriously injured. Don't let a fall shatter your life!

If you don't work at height very often or are unsure about which type of access equipment to use, it's important that you assess the risks and select the right equipment for the job. **WAIT** - (Work at height Access equipment Information Toolkit) shows you some possible solutions.

Visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/wait/index.htm>

Any work at height should be:

1. Properly planned
2. Appropriately supervised
3. Not carried out in dangerous weather conditions

If you're going to work at height you should be competent enough to;

1. Complete the task safely
2. Use or erect / dismantle the selected access equipment

Manager fined

A worker was left with permanent damage to his arm after being told by his site manager to use a heavy-duty core drill by hand on a construction site in Huddersfield.

The 32-year-old worker, from Rochdale, Lancashire, was instructed by site manager Matthew Saville to remove a 34 kilogram, one-metre high, diamond core drill from its stand and hand-hold it to

tackle a job. The drill's instructions specifically prohibited hand-held use.

As it was in use, the rotating core of the drill snagged on the blockwork and the body of the drill, which was being held, began to rotate and the man was spun round dangerously. He suffered a double compound fracture to his right arm and cuts to his head. He was in hospital for 12 days, had three operations on his arm and now has plates inserted permanently. After an investigation, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) brought a prosecution against Matthew Saville of Bridgefield Crescent, Oldham, for failing in his responsibilities to properly manage the construction site under his control.

Mr Saville, who pleaded guilty to breaching the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007, was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay £2,388 in costs.



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