

Reportable Injury - Fall from height

Description

An incident has occurred on a Highways England construction scheme where a contractor's employee has fallen approximately 4 metres to ground whilst erecting scaffolding. The injured person has suffered potentially life-changing injuries.

We know the injured person was on the second lift of the scaffolding and was engaged in putting scaffold boards on the higher level.



The injured person was taken to hospital where he currently remains.

All scaffolding operations on site have been suspended and a full investigation is underway.

Actions: All construction schemes where there is working at height need to: -

- Review construction designs and assess if working at height is absolutely necessary
- Where work at height is provided by a scaffold structure, ensure the scaffold is designed and NASC TG20:13 compliant
- Ensure Scaffolders carrying out works hold suitable CISRS qualification relevant to the type of scaffold to be erected
- Ensure there is suitable and sufficient risk assessment and method statement addressing hazards during the erection and dismantling of scaffolding
- Ensure the method of erection and dismantle complies with NASC SG4:15 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations: HSE-endorsed safety guidance
- Ensure Scaffolders work from an SG4 Scaffolder Safe Zone, if they are not, i.e. whilst moving the scaffold boards from the safe zone, then Scaffolders are attached by their safety harness and lanyard to suitable anchorage point on scaffold
- Carry out site safety inspections; focus specifically on arrangements and controls for working at height
- Review guidance provided in Highways England "Raising the Bar - Working at Height": -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-working-at-height>

Further Information:

For further information contact the National Health & Safety team on NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk