

Safety Alert

Slip, Trip or Fall event

2nd April 2019

Background information

In order to undertake work to remove covers from traffic lights, an operative was using an A-Frame ladder. Whilst the Operative was operating on the Ladder it collapsed, causing them to fall from a height. This resulted in an injury which restricted their duties.

Investigation Findings:

- Ladder inspections had not been completed in line with the Contractors own instructions.
- Despite receiving training and briefing on company methods, the IP (Injured Party) had not reliably secured the ladders in accordance with the contractors Safe Systems of Work.
- The IP had set out the ladders on uneven ground.

Lessons Learnt:

- Pre-use checks must be thorough and include ladder condition, positioning and setup.
- Routine Management/Supervisor inspections and verification audits should be carried out.
- Individuals should be assessed for suitability and ability specific to their own job role and working conditions/equipment.
- Equipment suitability should be assessed for all operatives.



Actions:

- Always conduct pre-use checks of tools and equipment.
- Report any defects immediately and remove equipment from use.
- Always use equipment appropriate to ground conditions.
- Ensure that routine inspections take place and inspection records form part of internal audit regime.
- Conduct thorough assessments specific to individuals to ensure equipment suitability and operative capability.
- Conduct regular Tool Box Talk's to ensure the message is continually enforced.
- If in doubt – ask.