



Director Jailed for Poor Safety Performance

A company director was jailed this week because a young man was killed as a result of unsafe working practices condoned by his employer. The court said the death was 'easily preventable.'

A twelve month sentence and a £10,000 fine were imposed following a trial that lasted more than two weeks.

The reason: The director had received previous advice about poor safety standards and had ignored this following the receipt of two previous Prohibition Notices from the Health & Safety Executive.

The young man had been sent to work on a roof to carry out routine repairs.

He fell to his death through a roof light. He had not been properly trained and was not provided with a harness or other suitable system of protection.

The case has been called a 'wake up call' to the industry where persons can be put at similar risk of serious injury or death in a wide variety of situations that can lead to falls or other incidents.

Lessons

All persons must be trained to an acceptable standard before carrying out hazardous works.

Persons responsible for staff or contractors must assess the risks in every activity they are asked to perform.

Managers must ensure that the system and place of work is safe and suitable to prevent risks.

Monitoring of workplaces and working practices should be an accepted routine in every construction business.

If you require assistance on any of the issues raised in this document, or any other health and safety matter, call 4See Risk Management now on 01327 811822.