

	<b>Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert</b>	Alert number: 27-14	Document Reference: RSS/F/HSQE/001
	<b>Fall From Height</b>	Issue Date: 29/09/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

## Background

One of the main high severity hazards in our industry is falling from height and a recent accident occurred during scaffold erection works with an operative falling approximately 6m and sustaining serious injuries.

The investigation is ongoing but the accident serves a good reminder of the high risk of these activities and the preventative measures that must be taken:

1. Consider how to remove working at height during the design stage
2. Ensure all temporary walkways, scaffolds and other platforms have suitable edge protection
3. Where it is not possible to eliminate the risk of falling, use a suitable fall protection system to minimise the consequence of a fall. This can be achieved with a fall arrest or fall restraint system (it should be recognised these are two different systems; fall restraint prevents workers from reaching the hazard while fall arrest allows workers to reach a hazard and then protects them if they should fall). Workers must be clipped onto an anchor point.
4. Ensure there is a rescue plan in place when working at height.
5. All temporary works involving working at height must have a suitable temporary works design; this should take into consideration the need for workers to clip on.

**Above all, relentlessly drive home the message that these type of works are life threatening if the proper practices are not followed. This message is to be given in every task brief involving works from height.**



Always use a safety harness when working at height, unless other protection is in place.