

12 April 2021, Ref: 2122001

## Accident Notification: Worker fell from residential building

On 5 April 2021, a group of workers was tasked to move and dispose furniture and electrical appliances from a unit on the 10th floor of a residential building. One of the workers was standing on a ladder when he fell backwards over a parapet wall at the service yard area and landed on the 3rd floor below. He was pronounced dead by attending paramedics.

The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

Employers and principals undertaking similar work activities involving mover services must consider and implement applicable risk control measures, including:

- Identifying on-site hazards (including unsecured openings through which a worker could fall) prior to work commencement. Note that the risk of injury is present even when working in a home environment.
- Briefing workers on the possible hazards and risks, and reminding them to raise the alarm once they encounter a dangerous situation.
- Providing workers with the necessary tools and equipment (e.g. proper height access equipment) for the work to be carried out safely. Where A-frame ladders are deployed, they must be used correctly (e.g. fully extended, spreaders locked, placed on stable and level ground, maintaining 3-point contact). If setting up a ladder next to a wall opening or parapet wall, the establishment of a fall prevention plan is important.
- Providing adequate supervision to ensure safe work procedures are strictly followed.

\* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 6 Apr 2021. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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