

Statistical Trends and Inspection Findings on Work-at-Height in 2023



MINISTRY OF
MANPOWER

Adeline Chang

Occupation Safety and Health Division

19 March 2024



A Great Workforce A Great Workplace

Overview

Statistical Trends 2023

Inspection Findings on Work at Height

Case Studies - Falling from Roof/ Ladder



We have achieved WSH 2028 target - fatality rate of 0.99 per 100K workers

Workplace deaths in Singapore down nearly 22% in 2023

Improvement comes after steps taken to curb spate of worker fatalities in 2022

Rok Yufeng
Correspondent

That year, the workplace fatality rate here was 0.9 death per 100,000 workers, but this was an exception in the light of the significant

place fatality rate has more than halved over the past 10 years, he hailed the improvement made in 2023 as a significant achievement, attributing it to hard work on the ground and collaboration between employers, workers and the Government. But he warned that it is by no means "mission accomplished" in Singapore. Further, we can maintain it, and even aim for further improvement. This will require us to stay the course, and focus on our core, and reinforce a strong and active culture of workplace safety excellence. "We can do this, I am confident, and we will continue our improvement, and keep the number as low as possible," he said, adding that unions play a key role in advocating better working conditions, proper safety tools and access to necessary training. Further measures to reduce safety accidents, including a safety culture for executives, will kick in later 2024.
 2023 workplace fatality figures released by the Ministry of Manpower on Jan 31 in response to a request from The Straits Times. It released the full set of workplace fatality rate has more than halved over the past 10 years, he hailed the improvement made in 2023 as a significant achievement, attributing it to hard work on the ground and collaboration between employers, workers and the Government. But he warned that it is by no means "mission accomplished" in Singapore. Further, we can maintain it, and even aim for further improvement. This will require us to stay the course, and focus on our core, and reinforce a strong and active culture of workplace safety excellence. "We can do this, I am confident, and we will continue our improvement, and keep the number as low as possible," he said, adding that unions play a key role in advocating better working conditions, proper safety tools and access to necessary training. Further measures to reduce safety accidents, including a safety culture for executives, will kick in later 2024.

致命率每10万人0.99 去年36人因工伤死亡 环比少逾两成

人力部兼国防部高级政务部长扎吉哈说，这是我国除了2020年以外，工伤死亡率首次低于1.0。这是一项重要成就。因为全世界只有四个国家，即英国、荷兰、瑞典及德国，能一直保持这个水平。

谢慧平 报道
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本地去年有36人因工伤意外死亡，人数比2022年的46人少了两成以上。这也意味着我国去年的工伤意外死亡率，在每10万名雇员中有0.99人，提前达到了要在2028年前，降至每10万名雇员中少于1人的目标。

人力部兼国防部高级政务部长扎吉哈星期三（1月31日）在全国职工总会暨安全论坛上发表演讲时，对我国在2023年取得的安全成就表示肯定。这是我国除了2020年以外，工伤死亡率首次低于1.0。

扎吉哈说：“这是一项重要成就，因为全世界只有四个国家（英国、荷兰、瑞典及德国）能一直保持这个水平。”

我国2020年的工伤意外死亡率为0.9，主要是因为当时的建筑工程因疫情而暂停施工而停摆。不过，随着疫情缓和，工程进度加快，工伤死亡率也上升。

2022年，工伤死亡率为1.3，工伤死亡人数为46人，是2016年有66人死亡以来的最高纪录。

扎吉哈说，李显龙总理2017年定下要在2028年前，实现工伤意外死亡率降至每10万人少于1人的目标。如今能够提前达到这个里程碑是集体努力的结果。

“事实上，我们的工伤意外死亡率降到了至少一半，从2013年的1.9降至0.99，这是一个巨大的成就。”

代表我国已经“完成任务”，而是必须坚持不懈，专注于这个目标。继续加强并普及卓越的工作场所安全与卫生文化。

“我们所要进行适当的风险评估和管理。当事故发生时，我们必须彻底调查，找出根本原因，从错误中吸取教训，并尽力避免重蹈覆辙。如果我们能做到这点，我相信我们就能巩固进步的成果，将数字长久保持在较低水平。”

职总助理秘书长杨益财：劳资政共同努力达成

职总助理秘书长杨益财在论坛上接受媒体采访时表示，职总对工伤死亡率降低感到鼓舞，而这也证明了劳资政三方伙伴、公司管理层、工会及员工的共同努力。

“我们必须始终牢记，工作场所安全不仅仅是一个统计数字或一套规则，而是我们必须持续建设文化。”

2022年9月，为应对工作场所安全意外增加，人力部实施高度安全或备用（Heightened Safety Period），准备期于2023年5月结束后，当局推出一系列新的SAFE（Safety Accountability, Focus and Empowerment）缩写，立即安全问责、专注和授权）措施，包括针对个别行业实施措施，加强公司安全文化，以及提升员工的安全意识。

21个机构获颁职场安全奖 为历史最多 刊第6页



Lee Hsien Loong
February 2 at 6:42 PM · 6

Very happy that we have made significant progress making our workplaces safer. Since 2005, the Government has pushed very hard to make this happen. The workplace fatality rate then was 4.9 per 100,000. Last year, the rate fell below 1 per 100,000 workers. It was a stretch target, which we aimed to reach by 2028, but we made it, and five years early to boot.

Measures implemented by the Multi-Agency Safety Taskforce (MAST) such as the Heightened Safety Period (HSP) and post-HSP measures are having an effect. We are improving our safety frameworks and inculcating stronger safety cultures.

We must work hard to keep this up and improve further. Many of the fatal incidents that sadly still happen from time to time are entirely avoidable. Also serious workplace injuries have not come down as much as they should. However, we now have some assurance that the underlying safety culture has improved.

It took a collective effort by the government, business owners, employers, unions, and workers to do this. I would like to thank members of the MAST, officers from the Ministry of Manpower, and employers, who have all worked so hard to improve our safety record. Please keep up the good work! – LHL

Maut di tempat kerja capai kadar rekod terendah

SHIHON RAMADAN
shihon@sp.com.sg



Jumlah kematian di tempat kerja di Singapura berjatuhan ke rekod terendah kurang 1.0 bagi setiap 100,000 pekerja pada 2023 – kira-kira sama dengan tahun 2020.

Jumlah kematian di tempat kerja di Singapura jatuh kepada rekod rendah kurang daripada 1.0 bagi setiap 100,000 pekerja pada 2023. – Foto Kongres Keselamatan Sekerja Kementerian Pembangunan Manusia dan Perumahan (MAMPU).

Ini kali pertama, sejak pada 2020 apabila pekerjaan terganggu disebabkan Covid-19, kadar kematian di tempat kerja di Singapura jatuh ke bawah 1.0 setiap 100,000, kata Enck Zagy.

Pengumuman itu dibuat sebelum Kongres Keselamatan dan Kesihatan di Tempat Kerja (WSH) untuk 2023 dikekalkan oleh Kementerian Tenaga Manusia (MAMPU) pada April 2024. Enck Zagy menambah bahawa ia adalah pencapaian penting bagi Singapura, kerana hanya empat negara Persekutuan Kerajaan dan Pembangunan Ekonomi (OECD) – Belanda, United Kingdom, Jerman dan Sweden – berjaya mencapai kadar keselamatan secara konsisten.

Pada 2017, Perdana Menteri, Enck Lee Hsien Loong, menetapkan sasaran mencapai dan mengekalkan kadar kecelakaan maut di tempat kerja kurang 1.0 setiap 100,000 pekerja dalam 10 tahun, atau kesetaraan 2028.

Kita telah mencapai kejayaan ini buat kali pertama kerana usaha kolektif kita, termasuk semua pemegang tugas hari ini, ujar Enck Zagy.

Kongres Keselamatan Sekerja Kebangsaan (NTUC) menyampaikan Anugerah U Safe kepada 21 kesatuan sekerja syarikat dan syarikat kecil dan sederhana (SME) semasa Forum dan Anugerah NTUC U Safe pada 31 Januari.

Anugerah NTUC U Safe mengiktiraf pemegang yang menunjukkan usaha teladan dalam meningkatkan keselamatan pekerja dalam industri bu-

ngaran, penggunaan hartanah, pembinaan, pembinaan dan perkhidmatan. Ia memastikan WSH diamalkan dalam kalangan pegawai cawangan dan rakan kongsi pengurusan melalui daya usaha seperti kergiatan kesihatan mental dan sesi perkongsian.

Dalam ucapan pembukaannya, Perorang Setiausaha Agung NTUC, Enck Melvin Yeng, berkata: "Keselamatan di tempat kerja bukan sekadar peraturan, ia adalah budaya yang mesti diamalkan oleh semua, bermula dengan budaya keselamatan dan kerjasama antara pengguna syarikat dan kesatuan pekerja."

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2023இல் 36 வேலையில் மரணங்கள்; 2022ஆம் ஆண்டைவிட 22% குறைவு



2016ஆம் ஆண்டும் ஆக அதிகமாக 66 நாழிபயர்கள் வேலையில்லுத்தில் உயிரிழந்த சம்பவங்கள் நிகழ்ந்துள்ளன. படம்: ஸ்டீவ் டி. ரெய்ஸ் என்டர்ஸ்

கடந்த 2023ஆம் ஆண்டும் 36 வேலையில் மரணங்கள் நிகழ்ந்துள்ளன.

இது 2022ஆம் ஆண்டும் ஏற்பட்ட 46 வேலையில் மரணங்களைவிட 21.7% குறைவு என்று தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. ஒப்பீதோக்க, 2021ஆம் ஆண்டு 37 வேலையில் மரணங்களும் 2020ஆம் ஆண்டும் 30 வேலையில் மரணங்களும் நிகழ்ந்ததாக கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த குறைவை 2016ஆம் ஆண்டும் ஆக அதிகமாக 66 நாழிபயர்கள் வேலையில்லுத்தில் இறந்துள்ளனர்.

2022ஆம் ஆண்டும் வேலையில் மரணங்கள் அதிகமாக இருந்ததை அடுத்து பாதுகாப்பு விநியோகங்களுக்கு அதிகரித்த தண்டனைகள் விதிக்கப்பட்டன. இதன் காரணமாக 2023ஆம் ஆண்டு வேலையில் மரணங்கள் குறைந்ததாக தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

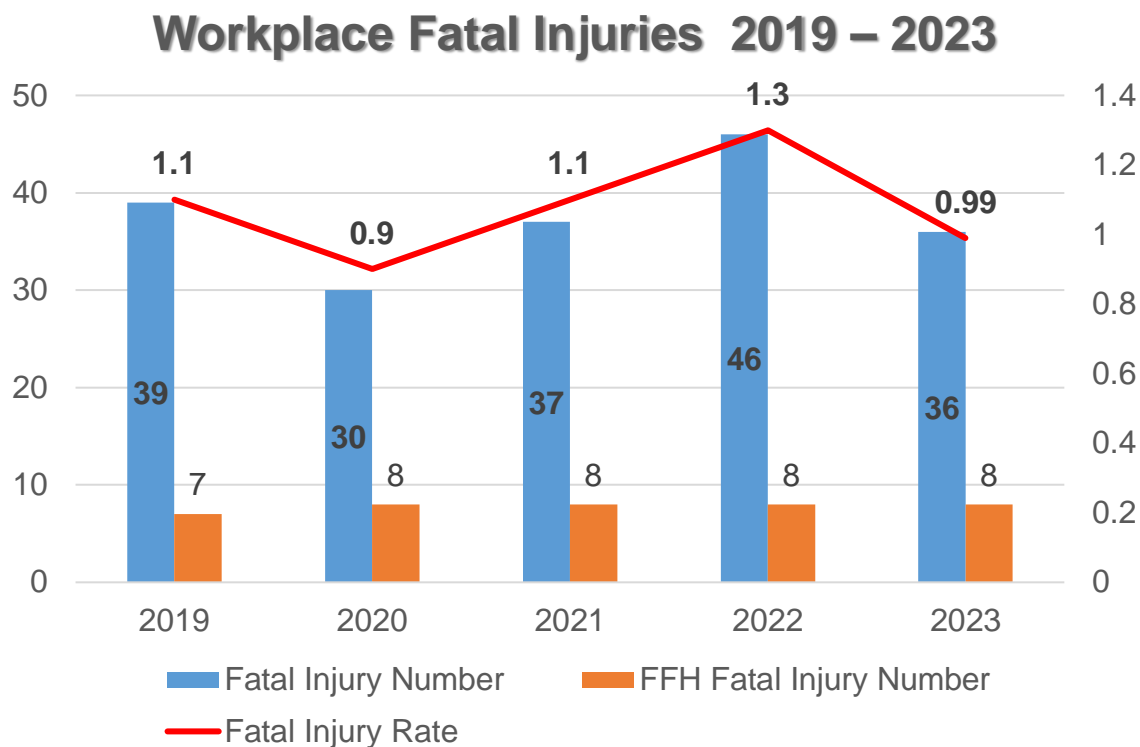
உயர் பாதுகாப்பு காலமாக வரையறுக்கப்பட்டு அதற்கான பல துறைகளில் மேம்பட்ட பணிக்குழு அமைக்கப்பட்டது. இந்தப் பணிக்குழு உயர் அபாயங்கள் உள்ள துறைகளில் பாதுகாப்பு நடவடிக்கைகளை வலுப்படுத்த பணிக்கப்பட்டது.

இதனத் தொடர்ந்து இவ்வாண்டு தலைமை நிர்வாகிக்குக் கட்டாய வேலையில் பாதுகாப்புப் பரிநிதி திட்டம் உடனடி மேலதிக நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது. உள்

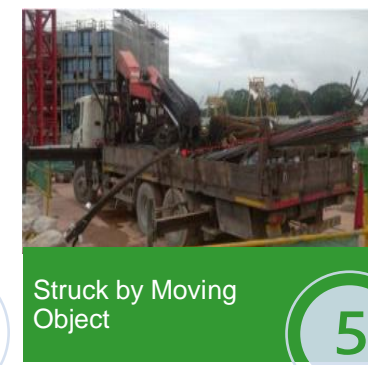
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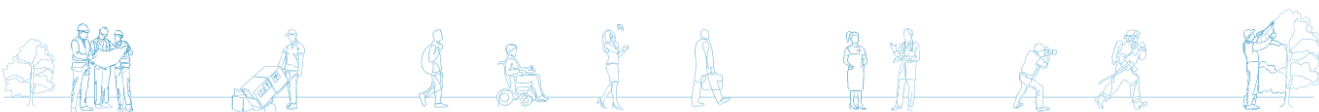
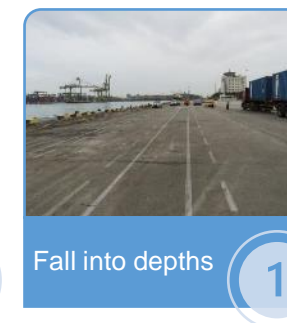
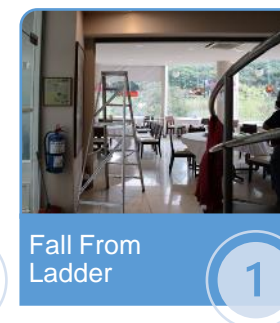
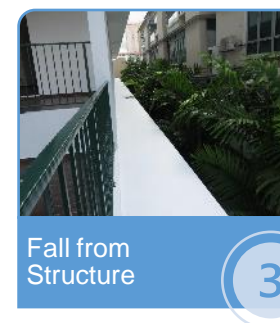
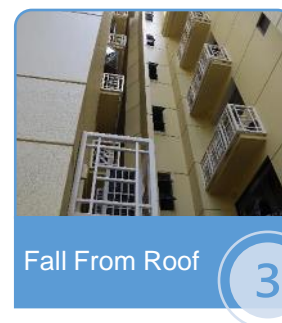
STAGNATION OF FALLS FROM HEIGHTS FATAL INJURIES



Top 3 Fatal Injuries Type

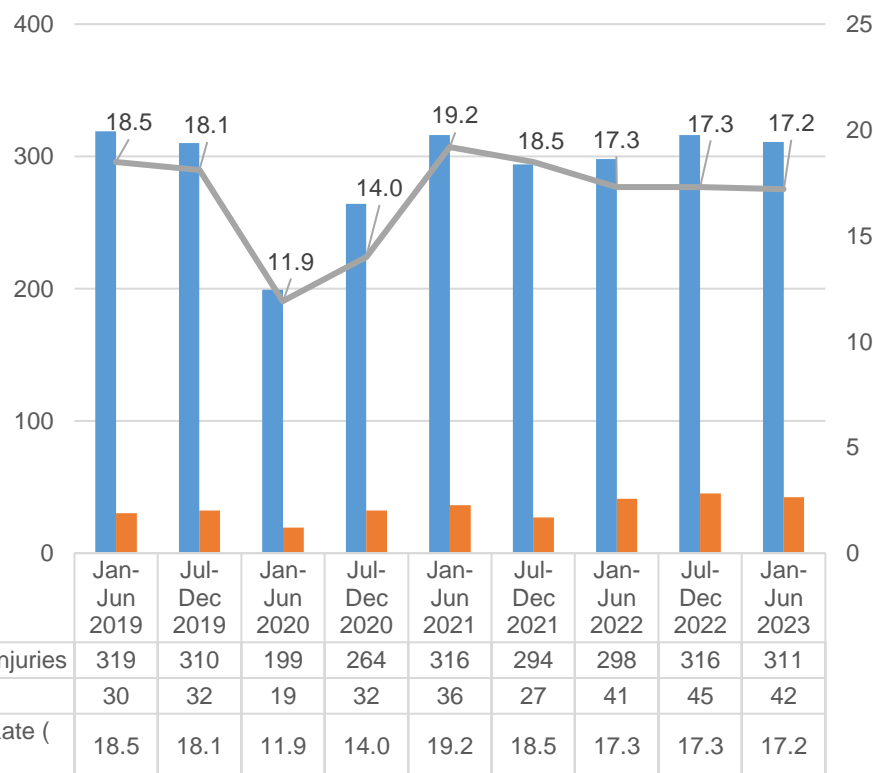


Fall from Height Fatal Injuries Type

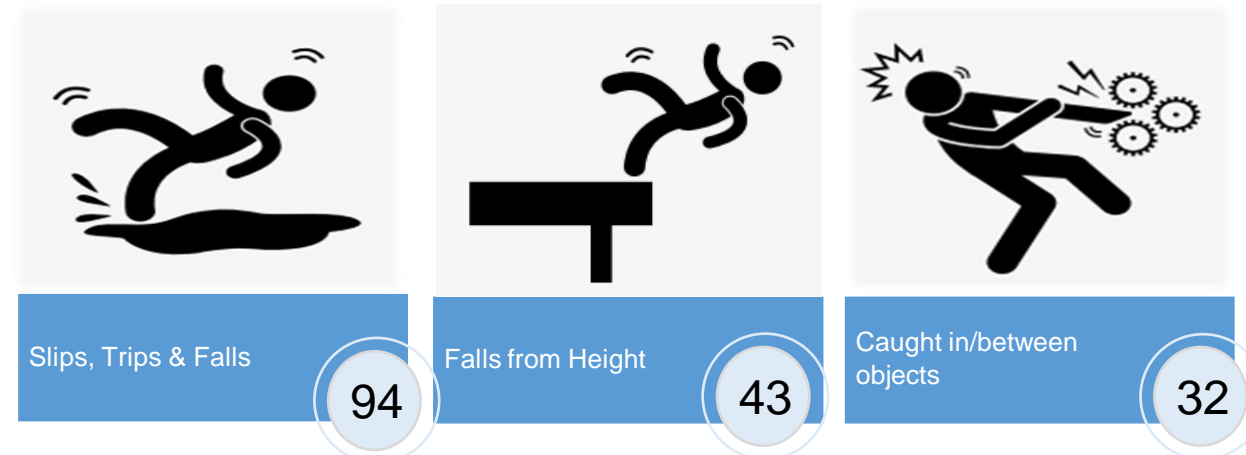


MAJOR INJURIES RATE HOVERED AT 17 SINCE 1H2022

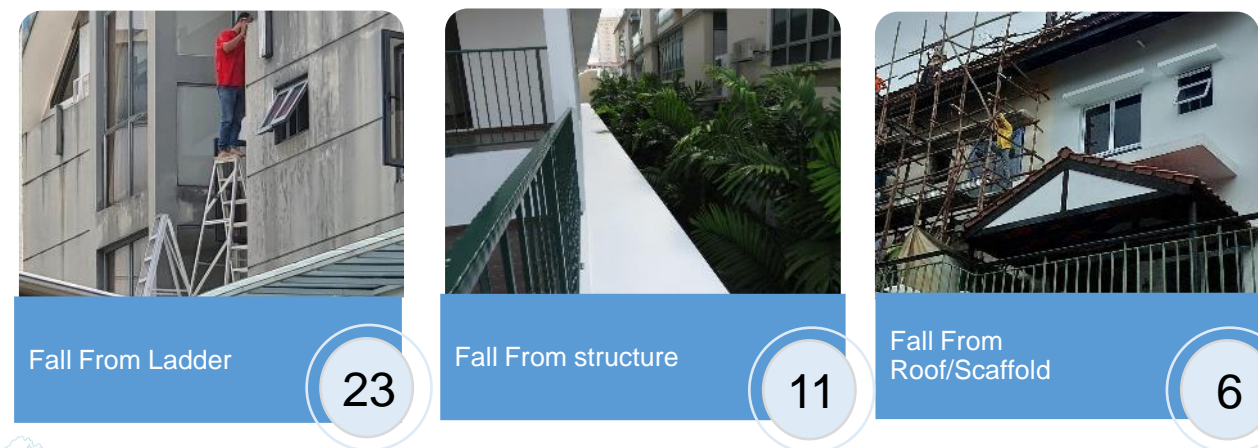
Number and rate of workplace major injuries, 2019-2023



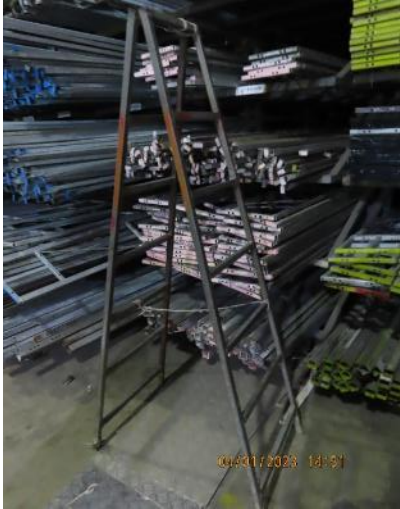
Top 3 Major Injuries Type



Top 3 FFH Accident Type



Common Inspection Findings – Unsafe Work at Heights



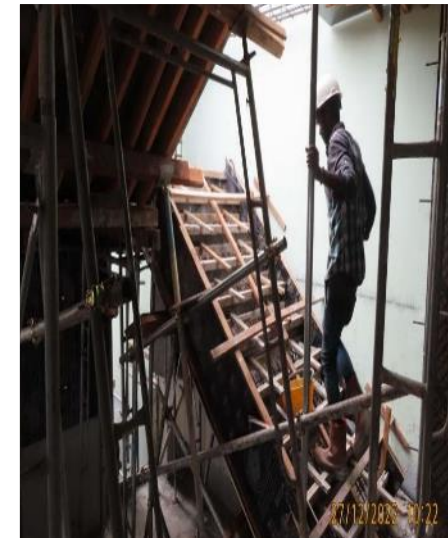
Unsafe Conditions



Common Inspection Findings – Unsafe Work at Heights



Unsafe Acts



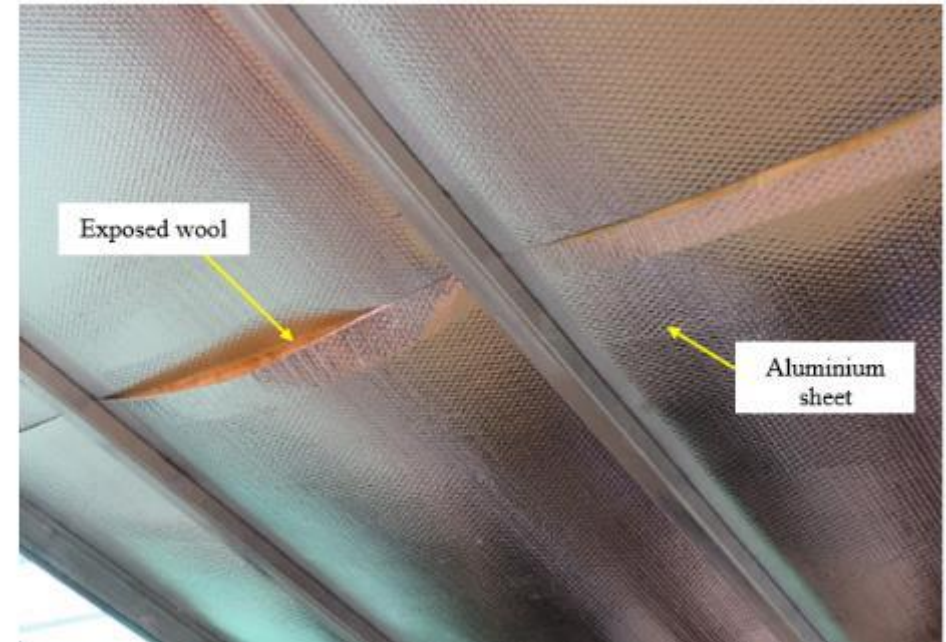
A Case Study – Falling from ladder



What Happened?

The deceased was working on a roof terrace when he fell off the ladder (1.44 metres) and landed on the floor of the roof terrace.

The Deceased was conveyed to the Hospital and subsequently succumbed to his head injuries few days later.



The director of the company had instructed the Deceased and co-worker to tape up the seams of the steel roof structure insulation.



What Went Wrong?



- No communication of the safety measures in the RA to employees.
- No supervision of employees when working on ladders.
- The Deceased was not adequate training necessary to perform construction works. He did not attend any WSH course including the “Applied Workplace Safety and health in Construction” which is a mandatory requirement.

Consequences

The deceased's employer was charged section 12(1) of the WSHA and was sentenced to a fine of \$100,000.



A Case Study – Falling from roof



What Happened ?

The injured and co-worker were labour-supplied and deployed to work under the occupier.

They were tasked to carrying out patching of the cracks on the wall at the exterior of the house.

After completed the patching work while waiting for the plaster to dry before the painting works could commence, co-worker went to get some drinks and a broom from a nearby supermarket.

When co-worker returned to the house, he saw the injured lying face down on the ground at the rear of the house, below the roof canopy that they were working on.

The injured was conscious when he was conveyed to the Hospital.



What Went Wrong?

- No RA was conducted relating to plastering and painting works (the “work activity”) that the workers were carried out.
- No safe work procedures to control the risks that the workers were exposed to when they were performing the work activity.
- The workers were not provided with adequate fall preventive measures when performing the work activity at height.

Consequences

The injured sustained severe traumatic brain injury and was bedbound and non-communicative after surgery. He was assessed with 125% PI.

The Director of the company, who is the Occupier cum Principal of the Injured was convicted of a charge under section 14(1)(c) read with sections 20 and 48(1) of the WSHA. He was sentenced to 22 weeks’ imprisonment (approximately 5.5 months’ imprisonment).



Learning Points

Factors contributing to accident

Management
Deficiencies

- Align WSH expectations: Ensure contractors understand and comply with control measures (Occupier)

Inadequate
control
measures

- Walk the ground: Conduct regular audit of control measures (Occupier/ Employer)

Inadequate
Training

- Provide structured WSH training: Ensure contractors have the necessary expertise to perform work safely (Occupier/ Principal)

Inadequate
information/
Supervision

- Provide clear instruction/supervision : Prioritize Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) measures and not leave the responsibility of determining the safest work methods solely to the workers (Occupier/ Employer)

- Involve workers: Educate workers on risks and SWPs; reinforce and refresh (Occupier/ Employer)



Recap : Safety Accountability, Focus, and Empowerment (SAFE) measures implemented/ to be implemented

IMPLEMENT BY 2024

Construction



Introduce more stringent safety requirements in Government tenders (**Apr 2024**)

SECTORAL LEVEL



Require Video Surveillance System for construction sites with project value \geq \$5mil (**Jun 2024**)

Manufacturing



Ensure safe use of machineries and combustible dust (**Dec 2024**)

COMPANY LEVEL



Require CEs or Board Directors in high-risk industries to attend the Top Executive WSH Programme (TEWP) (**Mar 2024**), for which online courseware is now available.

WORKER LEVEL



Introduce online micro-learning to Safety Orientation Course recertification (**Jan 2024**)

CONTINUE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

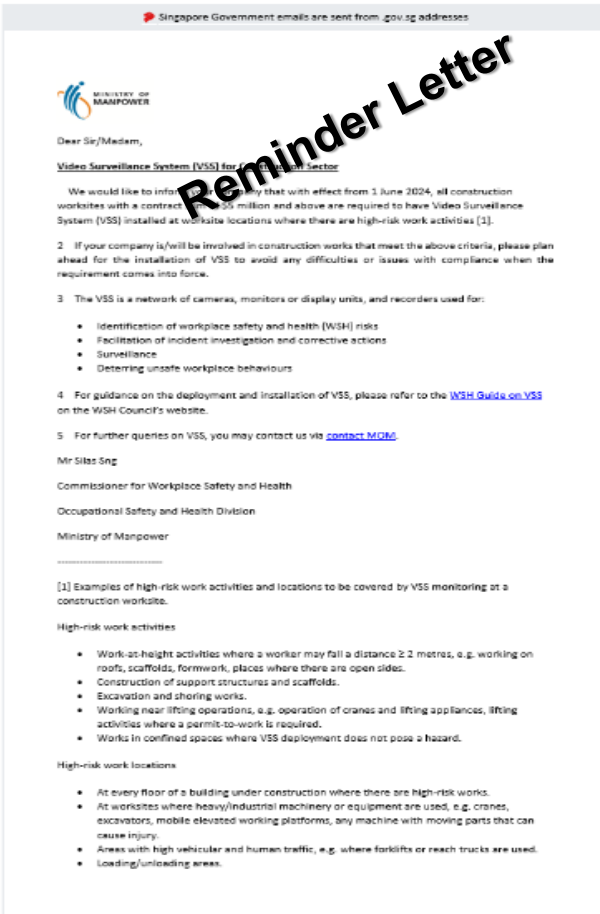


Increase maximum fines from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for breaches in WSH Act Subsidiary Legislation that could result in death or serious bodily injury (**1Q 2024**)



Video Surveillance System for construction sites

With effect from 1 June 2024, all construction worksites with a **contract sum of \$5 million and above** are required to have Video Surveillance System (VSS) installed at worksite locations where there are high-risk work activities.



High-risk work activities

- Work-at-height activities where a worker may fall a distance ≥ 2 metres; e.g. working on roofs, scaffolds, formwork, places where there are open sides.

High-risk work locations

- At every floor of a building under construction where there are high-risk works.

WSH Guide on Video Surveillance Systems

16 JAN 2024 | [PUBLICATIONS](#) > [GUIDES AND HANDBOOKS](#) | [ENGLISH](#) | [CONSTRUCTION AND LANDSCAPE](#)

Video Surveillance Systems help companies better manage WSH risks through enhanced monitoring of work activities. This WSH Guide provides guidance on how such systems can be deployed and what are the considerations in its installation.



Download 



SCAN ME

For guidance on the deployment and installation of VSS, please refer to the [WSH Guide on VSS](#) on the WSH Council's website.





CEs or Board Directors in high-risk industries to attend the Top Executive WSH Programme (TEWP)



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CEO or Board Director to complete the Top Executive WSH Programme

CEO or Board Director of companies in higher-risk sectors are required to complete the Top Executive WSH Programme before 1 March 2024.

The Top Executive WSH Programme (TEWP) aims to focus corporate leaders' attention on how to meet their WSH responsibilities and ways to develop their company's WSH capabilities.

Who does it apply to

All companies in these higher-risk sectors:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Marine



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Legal Requirement to Complete the Top Executive WSH Programme

02 JAN 2024 | ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Top Executive Workplace Safety and Health Programme (TEWP) is for CEOs and Board Directors to build their understanding and knowledge of workplace safety and health (WSH), with a special focus on the Approved Code of Practice on Chief Executives' and Board of Directors' WSH Duties (ACOP). It guides corporate leaders in the development of their companies' WSH capabilities.

It will be a legal requirement for every company in the Construction, Manufacturing, Transport & Storage and Marine industries to send at least one top executive (CEO or Board Director) responsible for WSH to complete the TEWP either online or in-person, before 1 March 2024.

Your company's CEO or a Board Director must complete the TEWP if:

- Your company's Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) submitted to ACRA is under the Construction, Manufacturing, Marine or Transport & Storage industries, as listed below:

Industry	SSIC 2020 codes
Construction	F41-43
Manufacturing	C10-32 exclude C301
Marine	C301, H52252, H52225
Transport & Storage	H49-S3 exclude H52252, H52225

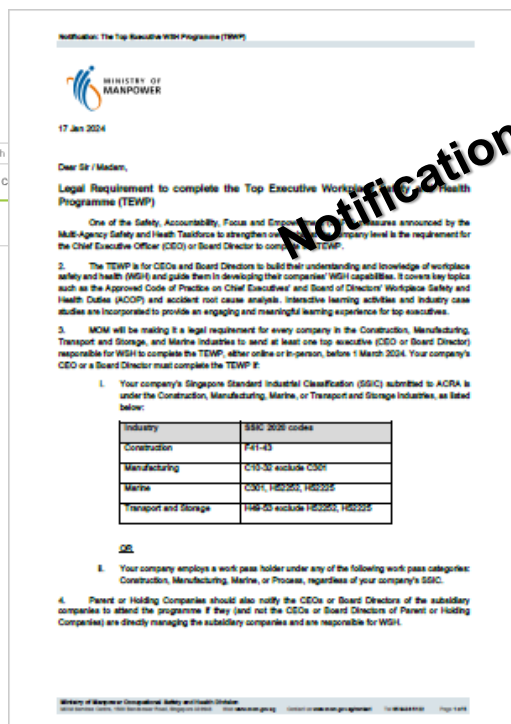
OR

- Your company employs a work pass holder under any of the following work pass categories: Construction, Manufacturing, Marine or Process, regardless of your company's SSIC.

Register for the TEWP with [NTUC Learning Hub](#), [SCAL Academy](#) or [Absolute Kinetics Consultancy](#).

Refer to the [FAQs on TEWP](#) for more information.

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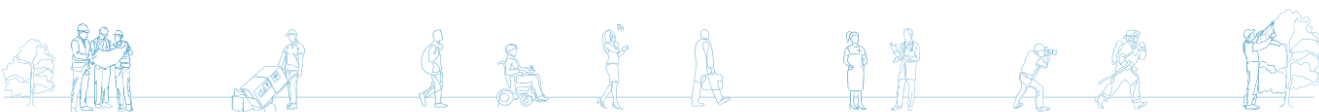
How might we collectively address WAH issues ?

❑ Engender ownership

- Reduce risks at source – Why At Height?
- Implement an in-house reporting channel for unsafe Work-At-Height (WAH) behaviors, with a focus on bringing these behaviors to the attention of top management.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are well-versed in fall prevention measures and implement these based on their intent, rather than just complying with the letter of the law.
- Ensure that all workers are informed about the risks and Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) necessary for performing work at height, and regularly **reinforce** and **refresh** this knowledge.

❑ Leverage technology

- Incorporate Video Analytics (VA) into your surveillance systems to proactively identify and flag Work-At-Height (WAH) issues.
- Implement an Electronic Permit-to-Work System (ePTW) to gain full visibility of ongoing high-risk activities and to identify any conflicting works





Work Safely!
Always have
SAFETY pin at
the back your
mind!



Thank You

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