

30
May
2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Worker slipped and fell off roof

On 24 May 2022, a worker was carrying out repair works on a sloping roof of a residential building when he slipped and fell about 20 metres to the ground. He was sent to the hospital where he passed away.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the worker was not wearing fall arrest equipment at the time of accident.



Figure 1: Overview of accident scene.

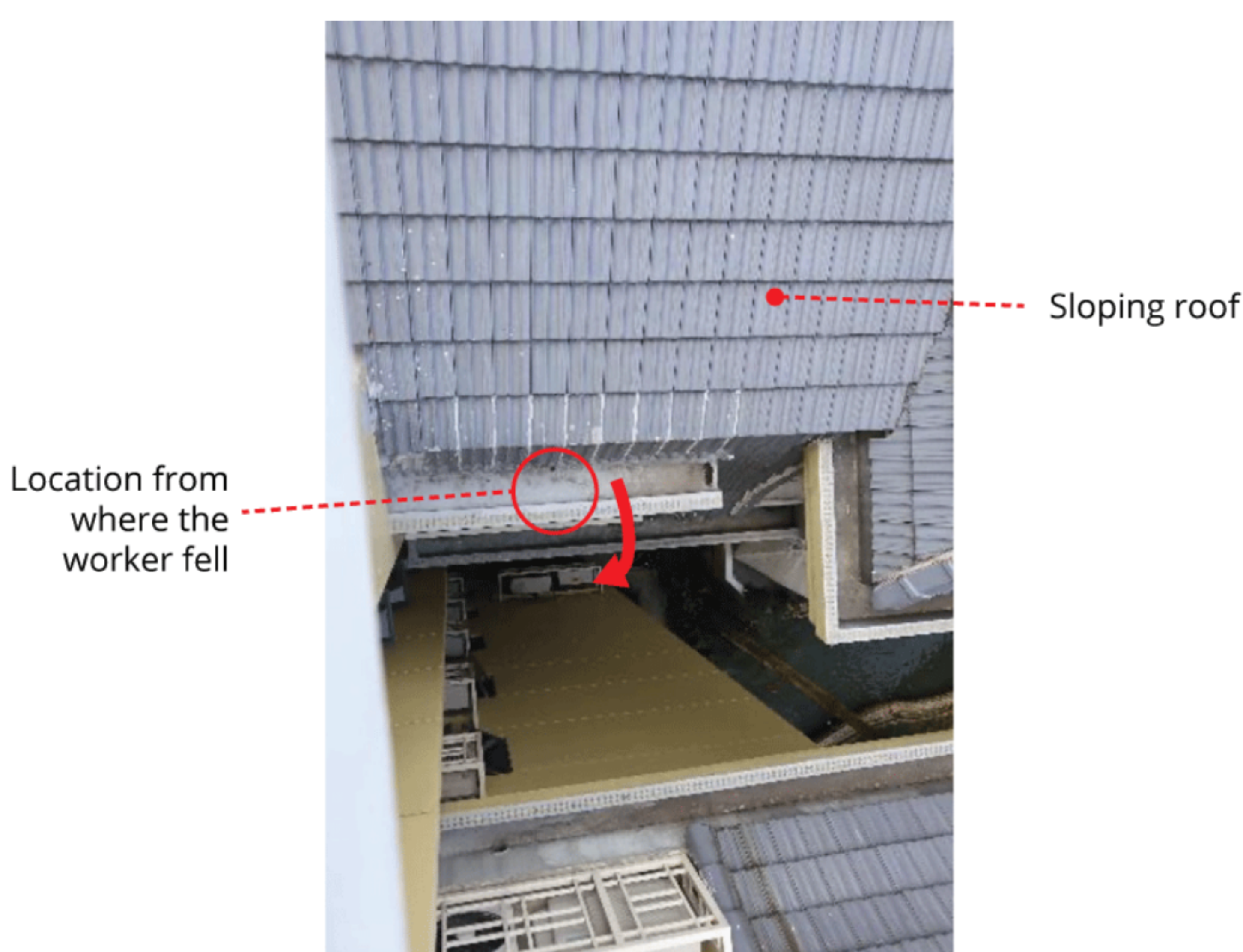


Figure 2: Top view of the sloping roof.

Recommendations

Working on a sloping roof with an open side poses a high risk of falls. Workers must not be allowed to work near any open sides without fall protection. Another [accident](#) involving roof works recently occurred on 19 May 2022. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Roof hazard assessment:** Before starting work, confirm that the roof surface is able to support a person's weight and identify if hazards exist (e.g. open sides, roof openings, fragile surfaces). Start work on roofs only after appropriate risk controls are put in place.
- **Fall Prevention Plan (FPP):** Establish and implement a FPP and Permit-to-Work system for work activities where a person could fall more than three metres.
- **Open side guarding:** Install guard rails at open sides where practicable to prevent falls (refer to Figure 3).

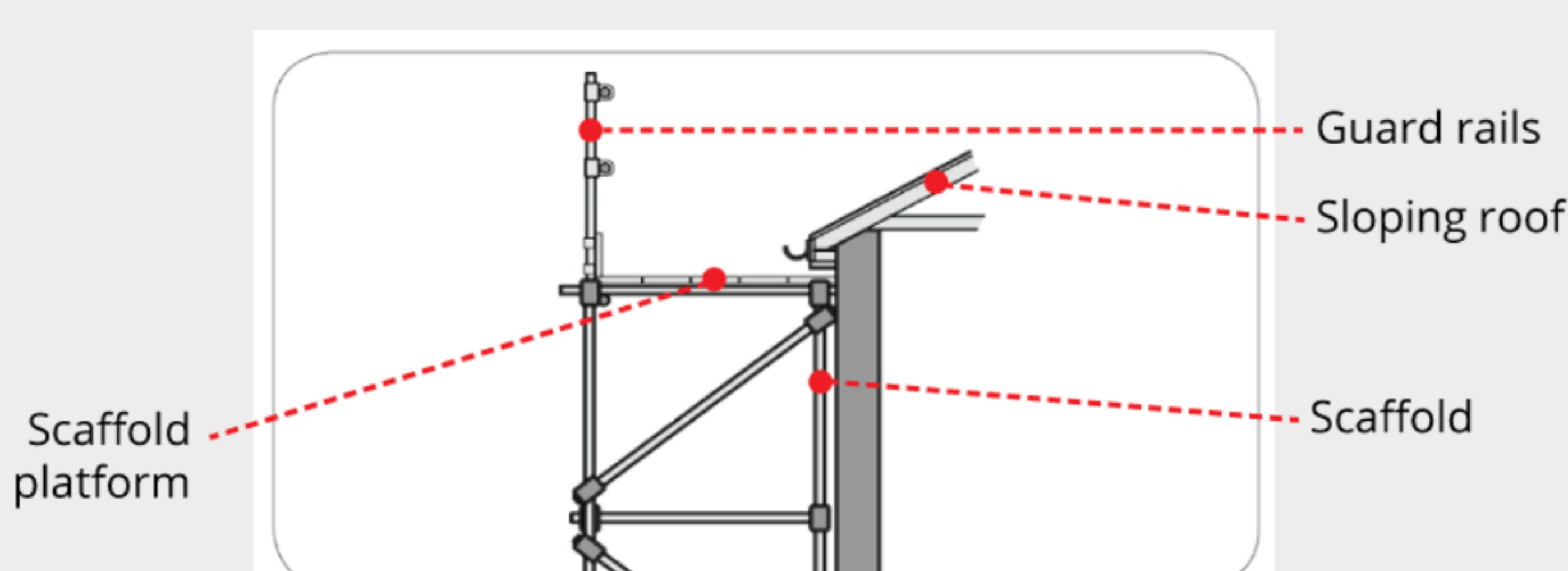


Figure 3: Example of guard railing mounted on a scaffold set up next to a sloping roof.

- **Fall protection:** Where fall prevention such as guard rails is not practicable, provide workers with fall arrest equipment and secured anchor point(s) or lifeline. Employers must ensure that workers wear their fall protection equipment and are hooked up effectively.
- **Worker training:** Deploy only workers who have received adequate training for work at height to work on roofs, such as the Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Perform Work at Height course. Train workers to always anchor their fall arrest safety harnesses when working at height. Provide twin lanyard harnesses so that 100% tie-off (i.e. at least one lanyard anchored at any time) can be achieved.
- **Safe work method:** Develop and implement a safe work method for carrying out tasks on the roof, taking into account the roof's characteristics (e.g. material of construction, profile and angle of slope) and the duration and frequency of work.
- **Workplace housekeeping:** Instruct workers to keep work areas tidy and free of slip, trip and fall hazards.

For more information, please refer to WSH (Work at Heights) Regulations 2013, WSH Council's [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#) and [WSH Guidelines for Working Safely on Roofs](#). Additional resources for work at height include [WSH Guidelines on Personal Protective Equipment for Work at Heights](#), [WSH Guidelines on Anchorage, Lifelines and Temporary Edge Protection Systems](#) and [Case Studies: Accidents Involving Work at Heights](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 26 May 2022. 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.

Workplace injuries tend to rise around this time of the year. Remain vigilant against risks and prevent accidents.

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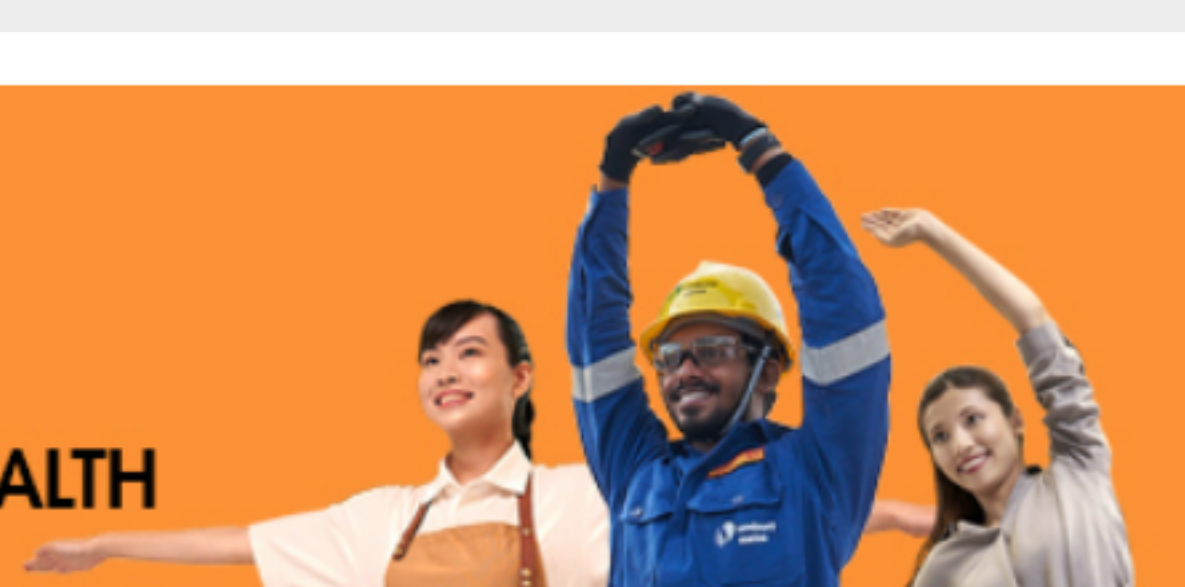
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