

ACCIDENT CASE STUDY 3

Crushed by lift counterweights during maintenance

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A lift installer was tasked to carry out maintenance works at a lift car top at a commercial premise. With both the lift control panel and lift car top junction box set to ‘Normal’ instead of ‘Inspection’, the lift car was suddenly activated when members of the public called for the lift. He lost his balance and fell onto the counterweight enclosure. As the lift car continued ascending, the counterweights descended and pinned him to the counterweight enclosure.

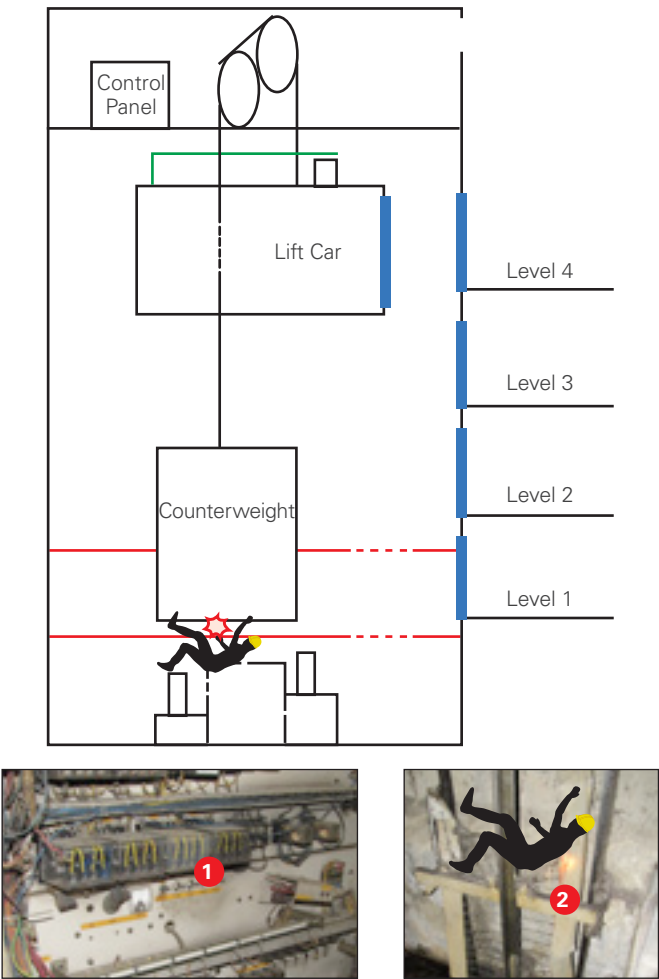
OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

- The Deceased did not set the lift control panel and lift car top junction box to ‘Inspection’ mode and did not adhere to Safe Work Procedure (SWP) for the maintenance works stipulated by the Employer.
- Provision of PPE to workers were inadequate as there are fall from height risks when on top the lift car.

LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- RA and SWP should be implemented and communicated and adhered to by workers such that they are aware of risks and may take safety precautions.
- Workers must be provided with appropriate PPE for hazardous work at heights activities.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES



MCST Accident Case Studies

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Who is the Principal?

Any person who engages another person or organization to supply labour or perform work under some arrangement other than a contract of service (for e.g., main contractor who engages sub-contractors).

Who is the Occupier?

In workplaces defined as a factory under the WSH Act, the Occupier is the person or entity who is the holder of the certificate of registration or is required to be the holder of the certificate named in the notification, or is required to submit a notification for the factory premise.

In all other non-factory workplaces, the Occupier is the person who has charge, management or control of the premises regardless of whether he is the owner of those premises.

Who is the Employer?

Any person who employs another person to perform work under a contract of service.

Duties of a Principal are:

You required to take, so far as is reasonably practical, such measures as are necessary to ensure that the contractor you engaged:

- has the competency to carry out the work you engaged them for;
- has taken adequate safety and health measures necessary in relation to any machinery, equipment, plant, article or process used by the contractor or the contractor’s employees.
- Have sufficient experience and training to carry out the work; and
- Has conducted a risk assessment in relation to the safety and health risks posed to any person who be affected by the work; and
- has informed any person of the risk involved in the work and any measure or safe work procedure which is implemented at the workplace.

However, if you are involved in directing the work of your contractors or subcontractors you hired, your duties are the same as that of an employer.



ACCIDENT CASE STUDY 1

Fall From Ladder While Changing Light Bulb

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A maintenance worker was tasked to remove ceiling lights using an A-frame ladder at the void deck of the premises. While he was on the ladder, he lost his balance and fell about 2.8m to the ground. He eventually passed away on the same day.

OBSERVATION AND FINDINGS

- The Deceased instructed to use a 2.8m high A-frame ladder to remove ceiling lights which was about 4.5m in height with no one to assist him in the works. The MCST failed to ensure proper oversight for the provision of safe means of access and egress by the contractor and did not verify if they had conducted Risk Assessment (RA) for the works. The contractor did not conduct any RA or implement relevant Safe Work Procedure (SWP) for the works.

LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATION

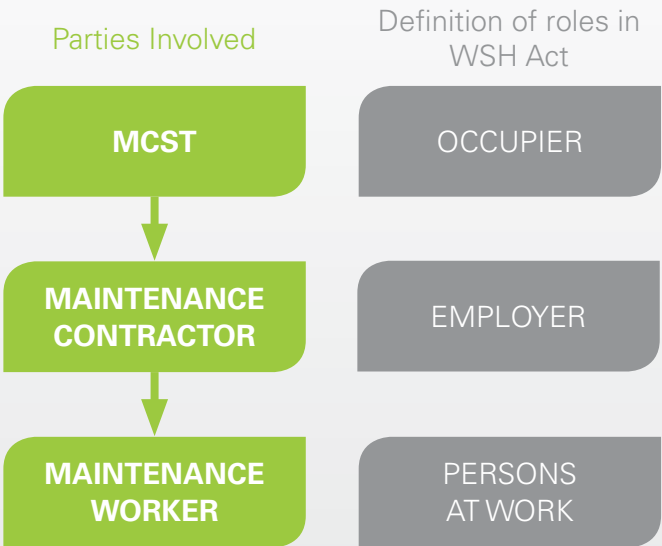
- RA and SWP – are required to identify and assess risks so that adequate control measures can be implemented to make work safe. Safe work methods provide a step by step guide for safe conduct of the work activities regardless of how small the task may be. Both RA and SWP must be communicated to the workers so that they can take the necessary precautions
- Ladders are access equipment and not work platforms. Avoid standing on the ladder to conduct work activities.



Photograph shows the ladder that was used by the Deceased to remove the ceiling lights at the time of the accident

- The 5th ceiling light that was removed and left with its electrical wiring.
- Ladder which was used in this accident.
- The Deceased was reportedly standing at the 2nd rung from the top of the ladder.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES



ACCIDENT CASE STUDY 2

Electrocuted while clearing rubbish

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Two workers were tasked to clear some rubbish from the service kitchen of a hotel when one of them suddenly started to shake uncontrollably while holding onto the metal sink. The other co-worker managed to pull him out of shock condition. He was conveyed to hospital but passed away on the same day. The cause of death was consistent with electrocution.

OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

- Preventive maintenance and servicing regime of electrical sub distribution system in the premises was inadequate. No maintenance schedule for electrical systems at non guest area. Occupier did not ensure that adequate measures were taken to protect any person against the risks of electric shock arising from use of electrical equipment at the premises

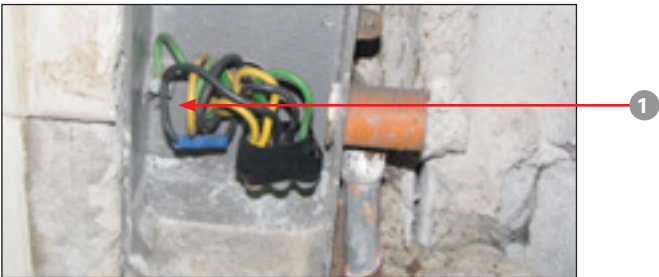
LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATION

- Work Planning – Occupier should engage a Licensed Electrical Worker (LEW) to inspect all electrical installation



Photograph shows that kitchen sink and plate on wall where Deceased was electrocuted

- Stainless steel plane fixed to wall beside sink (Point A).
- Deceased was electrocuted here.



Photograph shows the metal casing and cables that were concealed behind the cover plate (at Point A)

- Green earth wire that was connected to the metal casing.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES

