

Leading textiles firm hit with £100,000 fine after worker loses hand

A linen services company has been fined £100,000 after a man's hand had to be amputated.

Scott Drummond, from Rhyl, North Wales, suffered serious injuries to his hand after it became trapped in machinery at the laundry operated by Johnsons Textile Services Limited in Bumpers Lane, Chester, on 24 June 2021. The injuries were so serious that his hand was later surgically amputated above the wrist.

Guidance on [working safely with machinery](#) is available.

The 45-year-old had been investigating a fault on a large commercial dryer when he was caught by the machine. He had been working on a step ladder and as he lost his balance, reaching out to prevent a fall, resulting in his arm being crushed by the mechanism. He was left trapped and in extreme pain as he tried to call for help.

The moving parts of the dryer were unguarded, and although there was a one metre exclusion rule around the machine, this was vague and took no account of a person making an involuntary movement towards the danger area.

In a statement to the court, Mr Drummond said: "Health and safety shouldn't be about cost, it should be about keeping everyone safe.

"I should have been able to come home from work safely, but I was left with an injury that I'll have to manage for the rest of my life.

"I am making this statement in the hope that what has happened to me doesn't happen to anyone else."

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Johnsons Textile Services Limited of Monks Way, Preston Brook, Cheshire, had not fully assessed the risks involved, had not provided suitable guarding, and failed to put in place an adequate safe system of work.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. The company was fined £100,000 and was ordered to pay £10,741.69 costs at a hearing at Chester Magistrates on 11 December 2023.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Thomas Delroy said: "Scott's injuries are truly life changing. This serious incident and its devastating consequences could have been avoided if basic safeguards had been put in place.

"Here at HSE we would like to highlight that all employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery."

The prosecution was led by HSE enforcement lawyer Kate Harney.

Notes to Editors:

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2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.

Fines for repair firm and its director after man crushed at London garage

A garage has been fined £12,000 after a customer was crushed by his own vehicle at a garage in North London.

Tottenham resident Mahmut Emanet is "lucky to be alive", according to an inspector from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Mr Emanet spent six days in a critical care unit after he sustained serious crush injuries in the incident. He has been left with permanent and life changing injuries.

The 62-year-old had taken his company vehicle to be serviced at Silver Street Service Garage Limited on College Close, on 15 August 2022. The company director, Mr Seyit Dilek, left him standing under the vehicle while it was raised on a vehicle lift. As Mr Dilek walked away it fell off the lift and on to Mr Emanet.



Mr Emanet was crushed under his own vehicle at the garage

While Mr Emanet was a member of the public who survived this incident, not everyone is so lucky. HSE has previously warned workers of the dangers of poorly supported vehicle.

In total, 24 workers in the motor vehicle repair industry have been killed in work-related accidents in the last five years, with the fatal injury rate in the motor vehicle repair industry around five times the average rate across all industries. Recent research suggests that over half of all fatal injuries in the sector were caused by work under a poorly supported vehicle.

Guidance dealing with [health and safety in the motor industry](#) is available.



Company director Seyit Dilek left him standing under the vehicle while it was raised on a vehicle lift

The HSE investigation found that Silver Street Service Garage Limited failed to ensure that members of the public were not exposed to health and safety risks. The company also failed to ensure that the equipment had been thoroughly examined for any defects.

Company director Mr Dilek was in control of the garage at the time of the incident. He was directly responsible for the way work was conducted and access was managed on site. He failed to ensure that members of the public were not exposed to health and safety risks.

Silver Street Service Garage Limited of College Close, London, pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and guilty to a contravention of Regulation 9(3)(a)(ii) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. The company was fined £12,000 and was ordered to pay £2406 costs at a hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 7 December 2023.



Mr Emanet sustained serious crush injuries in the incident

At the same hearing, Mr Dilek of Waltham Abbey, London, pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 3(1) by virtue of Section 37(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was fined £500 and was ordered to pay £1500 costs

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Michelle Morphy said: "Mr Emanet is lucky to be alive.

"This incident could have been avoided if he had simply been asked to stay in the waiting area provided for members of the public.

"Instead, not only was he left to move freely around the two-post vehicle lift on which his vehicle was raised, he was asked by a director of the business to assist with the work being carried out, in the minutes before it fell."

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3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
4. Guidance dealing with [health and safety in the motor industry](#) is available.
5. Guidance on working safely [under motor vehicles being repaired](#) is available.

[Roofing firm and company business partner sentenced following HSE investigations](#)

- Company fined for failings in two separate incidents.
- Two workers seriously injured after falling through roofs in separate incidents.
- Business partner at scaffolding firm sentenced following incident in Swansea.

A roofing company has been fined a total of £881,000 after two workers were seriously injured during two separate incidents.

Billy Hewitt, a worker at Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited, fractured his pelvis after falling through a factory roof in Newcastle. Meanwhile, a 24-year-old labourer employed by RM Scaffolding broke his femur after falling through the roof of a building in Swansea while working on a project run by Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated both incidents and prosecuted Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited. Paul Robinson, a business partner at RM Scaffolding, was also prosecuted by HSE following the incident in Swansea.

On 11 November 2019, Billy Hewitt, 60, fractured his pelvis, left wrist and eye socket after falling through the roof of a factory in Throckley, Newcastle upon Tyne.

He had been replacing a skylight when he fell and landed on the concrete floor seven metres below. Billy was in hospital for three weeks after the

incident.



The roof Billy had been working on

Billy, who is from Whickham, said: “You don’t go to work in the morning and expect to end up in intensive care but that’s what happened to me. It’s been four years since my accident and I don’t know really do anything with my days. I really miss work. I was a roofer for 40 years but this accident changed everything because I still can’t work. I used to earn a good wage, but now I’m classed as 51% disabled and I rely entirely on benefits.”

The HSE investigation found Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited failed to properly plan and carry out the work to replace the skylight. The work at height had not been thoroughly assessed as a standalone piece of work. The investigation also found that safety nets were in place on other sections of the roof but

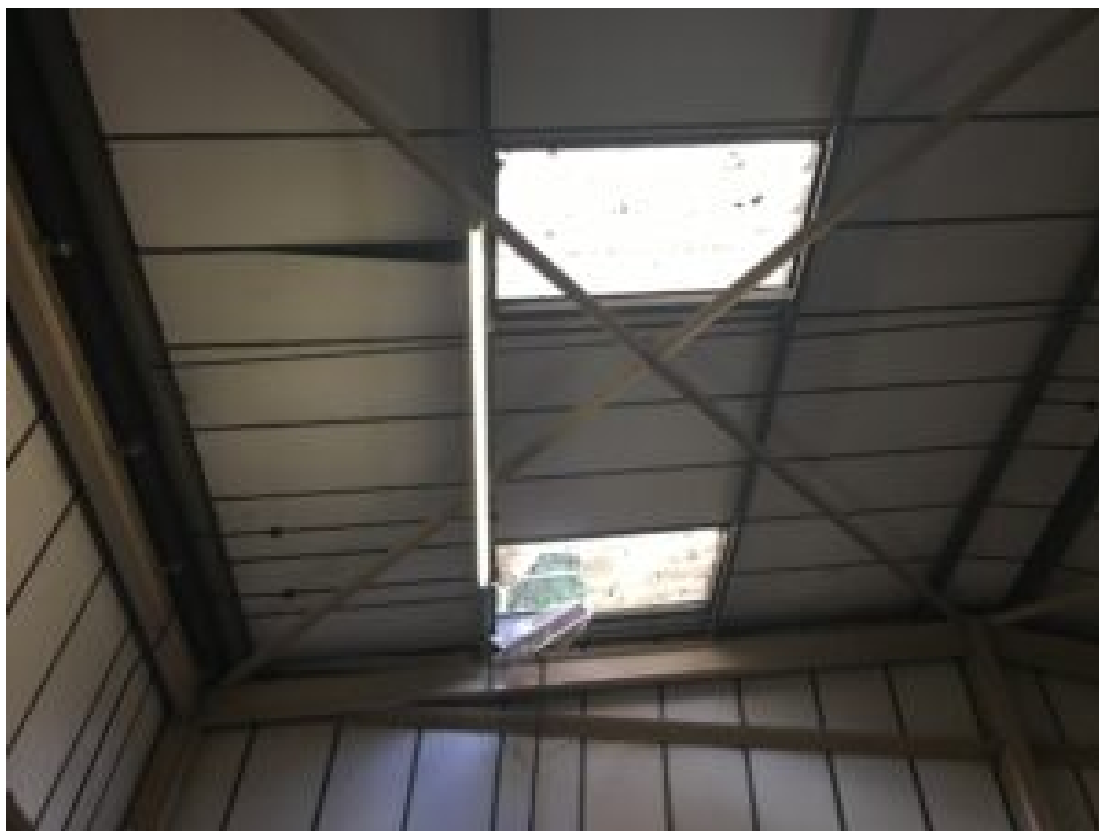
not directly underneath the skylight where the accident happened.



The roof Billy had been working on

HSE guidance can be found at: [Work at height – HSE](#)

On 3 June 2019, a scaffold labourer, employed by RM Scaffolding, was crossing a fragile roof when he fell through a skylight at a unit at Plasmarl Industrial Estate in Swansea. The 24-year-old landed on his back approximately 20 feet on the floor below. He fractured his femur and suffered a blood clot in one of his main arteries, which required long-term medication.



The roof of the unit at Plasmarl Industrial Estate

HSE found that Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited, the principal contractor for the project, failed to plan, manage and monitor the work undertaken by RM Scaffolding, the sub-contractor, to prevent unsafe work practices being used. Paul Robinson, a business partner at RM Scaffolding, failed to plan the work properly and ensure staff had appropriate skills, knowledge and experience. Robinson also failed to provide appropriate fall protection on the roof.

Following the incident on 11 November 2019, Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited, of London Bridge Street, London, was found guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, following a two-week trial in April 2023. Following a three-day sentencing hearing at Newcastle Crown Court on 6 December 2023, Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited was fined £575,000 and ordered to pay £84,940.08 in costs.

Following the incident on 3 June 2019:

- Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Following a three-day sentencing hearing at Newcastle Crown Court on 6 December 2023, Mitie Tilley Roofing Limited was fined £306,000 and ordered to pay £27,410.63 in costs.
- Paul Robinson, of Laburnam Way, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. At Newcastle Crown Court, on 5 December 2023, he was sentenced to 120 hours of unpaid community service, to be served within 12 months. He was also ordered to pay £20,428.73 in costs.

HSE principal inspector John Heslop said: “Too many workers are injured or die every year as a result of falling through fragile rooflights without adequate fall prevention or protection measures in place.

“These were both shocking incidents, which had a lasting impact on those who were injured.

“The law is clear about the measures needed to ensure safety when working on fragile roofs and there is a wide range of guidance available from HSE and the Construction industry on correct ways of working. HSE will not hesitate to take action against employers who do not do all that they should to keep people safe.”

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[Construction fined after failing to provide basic facilities to workers](#)

A Cheshire construction company has been fined £5,000 after it failed to provide workers with adequate welfare facilities.

C.B. Homes Limited was carrying out work at a site on Bunbury Lane in Alraham when it was visited by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 23 March 2023. The proactive inspection found the company had failed to provide workers with adequate facilities for workers to wash their hands.

It wasn’t the first time the Tarporley-based company had failed to provide such facilities with enforcement action being taken by HSE on three other occasions. It is a legal duty for companies to provide workers with suitable welfare facilities.

Guidance on the provision of [suitable welfare facilities](#) is available.

Chester Magistrates Court heard that HSE served an improvement notice in relation to the offences, which the company subsequently complied with.

C.B. Homes Limited of High Street, Tarporley, Cheshire pleaded guilty to

breaching Regulation 13(4)(c) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and were fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,984.

HSE inspector Sara Andrews said: “This company showed a flagrant disregard towards the health of its own workers.

“It’s a legal requirement to provide suitable welfare facilities, including a clean supply of warm water to enable workers to wash their hands in what is often a very dirty environment.

“The provision of suitable washing facilities is key to ensuring that the risk of workers developing some health conditions is adequately controlled. It’s also basic hygiene and the right thing to do.”

“Failure to provide them is a serious matter and, when a company falls short, we will take action. In this case, repeated failure has resulted in prosecution.”

This case was prosecuted by HSE enforcement lawyer Chloe Ward.

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4. Guidance on the provision of [suitable welfare facilities](#) is available.

[November 2023 – A roundup of HSE’s top stories](#)

In November we published more Health and Safety Executive (HSE) stories than any other month this year. They include the prosecution of a major movie production company following an incident on the set *Fast and Furious 9*, a £1.4 million fine for a cider maker following the tragic death of a grandad, and the publication of our annual ill health and injury statistics. Our Working Minds campaign also launched a new online learning tool designed to prevent work-related stress – businesses are encouraged to give it a go.

Rogue plumber handed suspended prison sentence

A man from St Helens was given a suspended prison sentence for carrying out illegal gas work in Cheshire. Richard Goldthorpe, who has previously spent time behind bars for committing similar offences, was also exposed on BBC's Rogue Traders TV programme.

He was given a 32-week prison sentence, suspended for a period of 12 months.

You can read the full press release here: [Rogue plumber handed suspended prison sentence | HSE Media Centre](#).



Jamie Anderson

Manufacturing company fined half-a-million pounds after forklift truck death

The mother of a man killed when the forklift truck he was driving overturned said she still feels angry as he 'simply went to work and didn't come home.'

Father of one Jamie Anderson was killed on 4 June 2019, when the forklift truck he was operating overturned at a depot in Newark. Barcode Warehouse Ltd was fined £500,000 after pleading guilty to health and safety failures.

[For more on this story: Manufacturing company fined half-a-million pounds after forklift truck death | HSE Media Centre](#)

New online learning tool helps businesses address work-related stress

On 8 November, a new learning tool to help businesses prevent work-related stress was launched. The free-to-use interactive tool designed by HSE's Working Minds campaign, aims to provide a better understanding of what needs to be done to comply with the law.

You can read more about the launch here: [New online learning tool helps businesses address work-related stress | HSE Media Centre](#)



Manager jailed and funfair company fined after three-year-old girl dies

An operations manager at a funfair company was jailed for six months and disqualified as a director for five years after a three-year-old girl died on a Norfolk beach. The funfair company he was working for has been fined £20,000. It followed the tragic death of Ava-May Littleboy, who had been playing on an inflatable trampoline when it exploded, ejecting her high into the air.

You can read the full story here: [Manager jailed and funfair company fined after three-year-old girl dies | HSE Media Centre](#)



Francesca Whyatt

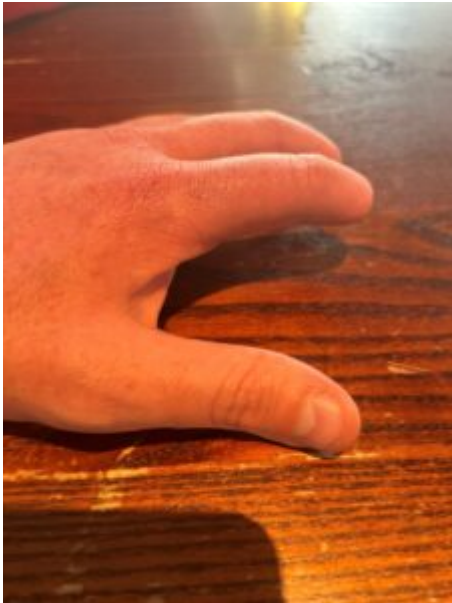
Priory Healthcare fined following patient death

The company that runs The Priory Hospital was fined after it failed to ensure the safety of patients on the hospital's Emerald Ward following the death of 21-year-old Francesca Whyatt.

Francesca, from Knutsford in Cheshire, was found unconscious at The Priory Hospital in Roehampton, London. She died three days later.

The company was fined £140,000 following a HSE investigation.

You can read the full press release here: [Priory Healthcare fined following patient death | HSE Media Centre](#)



Tom Matthews' left hand

McCain Foods fined after employee loses fingers

A frozen food giant was hit with a £700,000 after an employee lost two of his fingers following an incident at a factory in Lincolnshire.

Tom Matthews, from Grantham, is now a health and safety champion in his current job at a different company, warning others to avoid his misfortune.

He had been working a night shift at McCain Foods' site in Easton on 2 September 2019 when he suffered serious injuries to his left hand.

You can read the full story about this here: [McCain Foods fined after employee loses fingers | HSE Media Centre](#)

HSE publishes annual work-related ill health and injury statistics for 2022/23

On 22 November, we published the annual statistics on work-related ill health and workplace injuries.

The statistics show that nearly two million workers in Great Britain reported as suffering from work-related ill health – with around half of those being down to stress and anxiety.

You can read more on the statistics here: [HSE publishes annual work-related ill health and injury statistics for 2022/23 | HSE Media Centre](#)



Nineteen-year-old Ben Spencer was killed while working for Sunrise Poultry Limited

Mother's grief after only son killed while working for major egg supplier

A mother spoke about her grief after her only child was killed while working at 'Sunrise Eggs' in Loughborough.

Nineteen-year-old Ben Spencer had only been working for Sunrise Poultry Farms for two weeks when he was crushed between a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) and a wall on 12 April 2021.

His mum Tracy says she would like nothing more but to 'curl up in a ball' after his death at the site in Sileby.

You can read more here: [Mother's grief after only son killed while working for major egg supplier | HSE Media Centre](#)

Entertainment company fined after worker dies from fall

A company in the entertainment industry was fined £16,000 following the death of a worker.

Russell Bowry, a self-employed rigger, was working at ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd's Cardington Hangar Studios in Bedfordshire when he fell from height on 13 March 2018.

The 52-year-old, from Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, was part of an assembly team for a project that required the building of a temporary rehearsal stage.

You can read the full press release here: [Entertainment company fined after worker dies from fall | HSE Media Centre](#)



Patrick Atherton and his dog were attacked by cows as they walked on a public footpath in Devon

Farmer fined after cow attack left man fearing for his life

A retired chartered surveyor said he feared for his life after being attacked by cows while walking his dog on a public footpath in Devon.

The farmer responsible was prosecuted by HSE as a result.

Mr Atherton, a 70-year-old had been walking with his dog on its lead when they were set upon by around seven cows on 12 June 2022.

You can read the full press release here: [Farmer fined after cow attack left man fearing for his life | HSE Media Centre](#)



The incident took place at Warner Brothers' studios in Leavesden

Company fined as stunt performer sustains life-changing injuries during filming of Fast and Furious movie

A production company was fined after a stunt performer was injured during the filming of Fast and Furious 9: The Fast Saga.

Joe Watts, from Surrey, sustained life-changing injuries after he fell approximately 25 feet at Warner Bros. studios in Leavesden, Hertfordshire on 22 July 2019.

He had been filming a fight scene for the action movie.

You can read more on this release here: [Company fined as stunt performer sustains life-changing injuries during filming of Fast and Furious movie | HSE Media Centre](#)



Lewis McFarlin

Lift maintenance company fined after engineer fatally crushed

A lift maintenance company was fined after an employee died while working at a factory run by Muller Yogurt and Desserts.

Lift Monitoring Systems Limited, previously known as RJ Lift Services Limited, was fined £200,000 on Monday following a HSE investigation into the death of 24-year-old Lewis McFarlin, a lift engineer employed by the Staffordshire company.

The full story is available here: [Lift maintenance company fined after engineer fatally crushed | HSE Media Centre](#)

Cold weather working: Helping workers stay safe and warm

Employers were reminded of their responsibilities to keep workers safe as the first spell of cold weather hit large parts of the country during the last few days of November.

We stresses the importance of [protecting workers during the cold weather](#) as the Met Office issued yellow and amber weather warnings for ice and snow.

You can read more on the release here: [Cold weather working: Helping workers stay safe and warm | HSE Media Centre](#)



Mark Gillen sustained life changing injuries when a staging platform toppled over and on top of him

Man “lucky to be alive” after incident at luxury yacht maker in Plymouth

A premium yacht maker was fined £600,000 after one of its workers suffered life changing injuries at its shipyard in Plymouth.

Mark Gillen’s wife Sarah said she is lucky to still have her husband around after he sustained a catalogue of injuries, including 12 broken ribs and a severed right arm, when a staging platform weighing approximately one tonne, toppled over and fell on top of him.

You can read the full story here: [Man “lucky to be alive” after incident at luxury yacht maker in Plymouth | HSE Media Centre](#)

Firms fined over £600k after dad dies from fall

A further two companies have been fined after a dad died following a fall from the roof of a building site in Warrington.

Father-of-one Dennis Vincent, 36, and another worker were using ropes to install a lightning protection system to the front of an office block being converted into flats.

You can read more about this press release here: [Firms fined over £600k after dad dies from fall | HSE Media Centre](#)



Renowned cider manufacturer fined following grandad's death

The maker of Henry Westons Cider was fined £1.4 million after a much-loved grandfather was killed on his 65th birthday. Tommy Manns, from Dymock, Gloucestershire, was driving a company van when he was killed by the end of a security barrier on 28 September 2020.

The van was being driven out of the firm's site at Bounds Farm, March Marcle, Ledbury, when the end of a security barrier speared through the vehicle's windshield and fatally crushed Tommy.

The full press release can be read here: [Renowned cider manufacturer fined following grandad's death | HSE Media Centre](#)