

Director spared jail as two companies fined following roofer death

- Young roofer was on just his second day on the job.
- Falls from height remain one of the leading causes of workplace death and HSE guidance is available.

A director has been given a suspended jail sentence and two companies fined after a young man on just his second day on the job fell to his death at a premises in Walsall.

Adam Brunskill, 22, had been part of a team of four men working on the roof of Bestway Wholesale in Bloxwich Lane, near Reedswood. On 14 July 2020, he fell through an unprotected glass-wire skylight to the concrete floor approximately 23-feet below. He sustained a severe brain injury and died in hospital the following day.



The work was being carried out at Bestway Wholesale in Bloxwich Lane in Walsall

It had only been Adam's second day working as a roofer on the project to install over-cladding to the large industrial unit.

Wayne Clarey, the director of Wayne Clarey Roofing & Cladding Limited, was given a six-month custodial sentence, suspended for 18 months. His company was fined £45,000, while principal contractor Proclad Developments Limited was fined £400,000.

Working at height remains one of the leading causes of workplace injury and death and HSE has detailed guidance on [working safely at height](#).



Adam Brunskill fell through an unprotected glass-wire skylight

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that this was a very preventable incident. The skylights could have been covered or safety netting installed below.

- Proclad (Developments) Limited of Snail Hill, Rotherham pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 9 (2) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and have been fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,089.
- Wayne Clarey Roofing & Cladding Limited of High Escombe, Bishop Auckland pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 9 (2) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and have been fined £45,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000.
- Director Wayne Clarey of High Escombe, Bishop Auckland pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 9 (2) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was sentenced to 26 weeks imprisonment suspended for 18 months.

HSE inspector Gareth Langston said: “The collective failures of those responsible for site safety in this case has cost a young man his life.

“Adam Brunskill was at the very beginning of his career but was not kept safe.

“When working on fragile roofing, or where skylights are in place on a metal roof, safety netting is essential.

“Had these measures been put in place Adam would still be alive.”

Further information:

1. [The Health and Safety Executive](#) (HSE) is Britain’s national regulator for workplace health and safety. We are dedicated to protecting people and places, and helping everyone lead safer and healthier lives.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.

4. HSE guidance on [working safely at height](#) is available.
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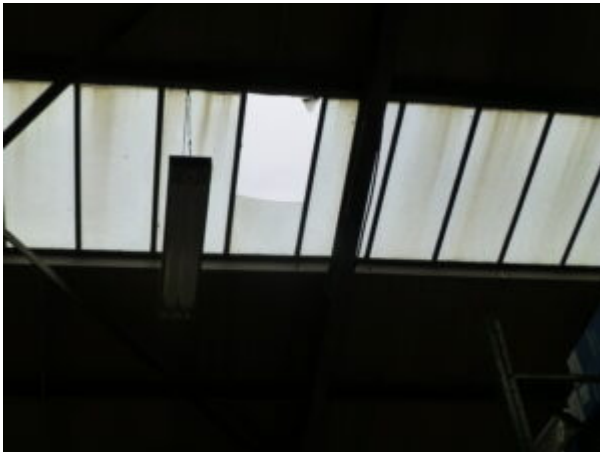


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[Site supervisor fined after exposing school pupils to asbestos](#)

A construction site supervisor has been fined after he exposed primary school pupils and staff to asbestos during renovation work.

Adrian Barraclough was working as a site supervisor during the refurbishment of kitchen facilities at Holy Family Catholic Primary School in Bristol.



Adrian Barraclough was working as a site supervisor during the refurbishment of kitchen

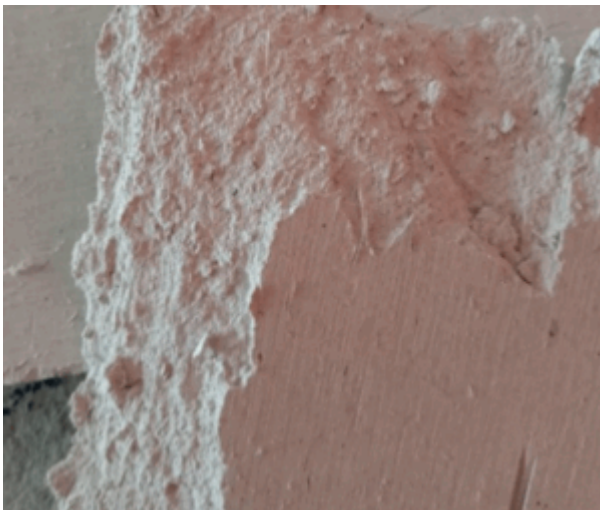
During the works on 13 May 2023, the 54-year-old cut through asbestos insulating board using a circular saw. His actions resulted in asbestos fibres spreading throughout the school hall, which was subsequently used for two days by pupils and staff.



Holy Family Catholic Primary School in Bristol

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Barraclough failed to follow his asbestos awareness training, including clear instructions not to disturb the wall. Following an asbestos survey, the wall was due to be checked by a licensed asbestos contractor prior to removal to clarify if asbestos was present.

HSE's has two campaigns "[Asbestos and You](#)" and "[Asbestos Your Duty](#)" reminding tradespeople about the dangers of asbestos and the importance of working safely with it, also to reach those responsible for the maintenance and repair of non-domestic buildings.



Close up image of the asbestos containing material

The regulator also provides comprehensive guidance for workers and employers about working safely with [asbestos on its website](#). This includes information on how to identify asbestos, what to do if you find it, and the appropriate safety measures needed when working with or around asbestos-containing materials. Workers in trades such as construction, maintenance, demolition and installation are particularly at risk and should ensure they have appropriate training before starting work that might disturb asbestos.

Adrian Barraclough, of Green Lane, Frome, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was fined £1,800 and

ordered to pay a £720 victim surcharge and £4,000 in costs at Bristol Magistrates' Court on 12 June 2025 – a total financial penalty of £6,520.

HSE inspector Ian Whittles said: "Every year around 5,000 people die from asbestos-related diseases, often taking decades to develop symptoms. In this case, wholly unacceptable exposure to asbestos fibres occurred as a result of an individual employee not following instructions and procedures designed to prevent such occurrences."

This HSE prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Karen Park and paralegal Imogen Issac.

Further information

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3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) are available.
4. Relevant guidance can be found here: Introduction to asbestos safety: [Overview – HSE](#).
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Demolition firm fined after worker seriously injured in fall from height

A demolition company has been fined after a worker fell six metres through a roof opening during a demolition project, suffering serious injuries.

Lawrie (Demolition) Limited had been appointed as the principal contractor to carry out the demolition of a vacant warehouse in Aberdeen.



Warehouse in question

On 25 May 2023, 42-year-old Sylwester Zdunczyk was working with a team on the warehouse roof, removing aluminium over-sheeting. The sheets were being carried to pre-cut holes in the roof from where they were dropped to the ground floor. These holes were guarded by steel crowd control barriers secured together with plastic tie wraps – but they were not attached to the roof surface. No other fall prevention measures were in place.

While helping to carry a sheet backwards near one of the holes, Mr Zdunczyk lost his footing. The weight of the sheet and his own bodyweight caused the unattached barriers to shift, exposing the edge of the opening and creating a gap. He fell approximately six metres to the concrete floor below.



the worker fell from this roof

Mr Zdunczyk sustained a fractured pelvis and two broken ribs. He was unable to work for six months after being discharged from hospital and has not fully recovered. Previously fit and active, he can no longer run, cycle or play football and now requires pain medication.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Lawrie (Demolition) Limited failed to properly plan, supervise, and carry out the work at height safely. Workers were sent onto the roof without sufficient instruction, training or supervision. The company also failed to put adequate fall protection measures in place.

Working at height remains one of the leading causes of workplace injury and death and HSE has detailed guidance on [working safely at height](#).



the warehouse

Lawrie (Demolition) Limited, of Rigifa, Cove, Aberdeen, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and Section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £40,562.50 at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 12 June 2025.

HSE inspector Muhammad Umair Tanvir said:

“This incident could have been avoided by simply implementing appropriate control measures and safe working practices.

“Falls from height remain the leading cause of fatalities and serious injuries in UK workplaces. In 2023/24, 50 workers died following a fall from height – the highest cause of workplace fatalities. This trend has remained consistent over recent years.”

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Scotland can be found [here](#).

[Metal gate manufacturer fined after exposing workers to serious safety risks](#)

A metal gate manufacturing company has been prosecuted after repeatedly ignoring Health and Safety Executive (HSE) enforcement notices.

Research and Development in Opening Gates Limited was first visited by HSE at its site in Grantham, Lincolnshire, where inspectors identified serious safety breaches, including unsafe equipment, inadequate control of welding fume, and poor structural integrity in workplace areas accessed by employees and visitors.

Three Improvement Notices were served following the initial inspection. These required the company to:

- Take effective measures to control employee and non-employee exposure to welding fume, a substance hazardous to health.
- Assess the structural safety of a mezzanine floor in use at the site.
- Ensure lifting equipment, including a forklift truck, had undergone a thorough examination to confirm it was safe to use.



Buzzsaw without guard

Further material breaches were identified in a Notification of Contravention letter, including:

- Unguarded dangerous parts of machinery.

- Inadequate edge protection on the mezzanine floor to prevent falls from height.
- Electrical systems not constructed to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, danger.
- Unsafe storage of flammable gases.
- No competent person appointed to assist with health and safety management.



Unsafe storage of flammable gas

Despite this enforcement, follow-up inspections revealed continued non-compliance. HSE returned to the site five more times, serving three additional Improvement Notices and one Prohibition Notice.

The Prohibition Notice was issued during a second visit in relation to ducting installed above welding benches. The ducting was supported by unstable and unsecured structures that were visibly bowing, posing a serious risk of personal injury should it collapse. The installation had been intended to control exposure to welding fume but was found to be unsafe and ineffective.

Two further Notification of Contravention letters were also sent to the company. During the intervention, compliance deadlines were extended on two occasions, but legal requirements were still not met. The company's failings put employees, contractors and visitors at risk of serious harm. Reasonably practicable measures could have been taken to control these risks, but the company failed to do so.

An investigation by HSE found that Research and Development in Opening Gates Limited had failed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees and others affected by its work activities. The company's standard of health and safety management fell significantly below legal requirements, leading to a proactive prosecution.

[HSE guidance](#) states that employers must take effective measures to control exposure to hazardous substances such as welding fume. This typically includes providing engineering controls, like Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV). Workplaces must also be structurally sound and lifting equipment must

be examined regularly by competent professionals.

Research and Development in Opening Gates Limited, of Lea Bridge Road, London pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £40,000 for each offence, totalling £80,000, and ordered to pay £7,495.72 in costs, along with a £2,000 victim surcharge. The sentence was handed down at Lincoln Magistrates' Court on 12 June 2025.

HSE inspector Muir Finlay said:

"This prosecution follows a catalogue of failures, all of which posed serious risks to both the health and safety of workers and visitors of the site.

"The company failed to implement basic, well-understood measures to control risks. Health and safety must be effectively managed – it's not optional."

This HSE prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Matthew Reynolds and paralegal officer Jason Dix.

Notes to editors

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5. Link to relevant HSE guidance: [Welding fume: protect your workers – HSE](#)