

Two companies fined after worker fell from height

A contractor and scaffolding company were sentenced today for safety breaches after a worker fell five metres from a roof.

Leeds Magistrates' Court heard how in December 2015 Jhanade Ryan, a sub-contractor working for Centreco (UK) Ltd, was installing solar panels to the roof of Firth Steels, Brighouse.

Mr Ryan suffered life changing injuries. He slipped on the roof, sliding down to the edge protection. The toe board of the edge protection snapped and he fell through the scaffold, landing on a sub-station flat roof. He sustained a fracture to his spine, a broken coccyx and nerve damage. Mr Ryan was in hospital for almost three months and is now unable to work due to ongoing mobility issues.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the scaffolding company had not erected the scaffold to a known industry standard or design.

The investigation also found roof lights were present on the roof and that the contractor had failed to take effective measures to prevent workers falling through these fragile surfaces.

Oswestry Shropshire Scaffold Ltd of Pool Cottage, Oswestry, Shropshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £28,800 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.

Centreco (UK) Ltd of Hearle House, Chorley, Lancs pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £33,500 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jayne Towey commented: "Falls from height often result in life changing or fatal injuries. In most cases these accidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place such as edge protection or barriers built to the correct standard."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/)
3. Further HSE news releases are available at [press.hse.gov.uk](https://www.press.hse.gov.uk)

4. For further information please visit
hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workingatheight.htm

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

Pembrokeshire man sentenced after worker seriously injured

A man has been sentenced to 18 weeks in prison after a worker received serious injuries from an electric shock.

Swansea Crown Court heard that, on 12 March 2014, Mr Hearne, under instruction from George Jones, sustained serious injuries whilst plugging a tyre stripping machine into a wall socket. The incident, which took place at Carew Cars, Carew Airfield, Pembrokeshire, could easily have led to a fatality.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the electrical installation at the unit in Carew Airfield operated by George Jones as part of his scrap metal business was unsafe and was more suited to a domestic premise. The socket in use was in poor condition with exposed wires. The roof of the building had holes in it and there was evidence of water ingress on the wall behind the socket which contributed to the incident.

George William Edward Jones of Strawberry Fields, Pembrokeshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison to run concurrently with his existing sentence.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Anne Marie Orrells said: "This case highlights the importance of regular proactive maintenance and inspection of work equipment, including electrical installations, to ensure that they do not deteriorate to the extent that it puts people at risk.

"In this case, George Jones failed to effectively maintain equipment and it could have resulted in a fatal injury."

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Media Enquiries

0151 951 5987 media.enquiries@hse.gov.uk

HSE Out of Hours: 0151 922 1221

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Injection moulding company fined after worker injured

An injection moulding company has been fined after a worker suffered serious injuries whilst trying to free a blockage.

Wrexham Magistrates' Court heard how a Brother Industries (UK) Limited employee was injured whilst trying to clear a blockage on a plastics injection moulding machine, resulting in serious burns and multiple fractures to his heel and causing him to miss three months of work.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on the 20 December 2016, found that there was no safe system of work for clearing blockages on plastic injection moulding machines.

Brother Industries (UK) Limited of Vauxhall Industrial Estate, Ruabon, Wrexham pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and have been fined £150,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,659.98.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Christina Roberts said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of work and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of work.

"If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

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Company fined after worker trapped by falling scrap lead

A lead recycling company was sentenced after a worker was trapped under a load of falling scrap lead.

Luton Magistrates' Court heard how on 5 May 2016 an employee of H J Enthoven Ltd was operating the overhead crane, lifting a bin containing scrap lead when the bin slipped, emptying its contents onto the crane operator, trapping and injuring him.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the work was not suitably planned and supervised by a competent person or carried out in a safe manner.

H J Enthoven Ltd of South Darley, Matlock pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £200,000 and ordered to pay costs of £ 6509.69.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Rubeena Surnam said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided if the company had properly planned the work and implemented the control measures identified.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

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Contractor fined after employee run over by road roller

A road resurfacing company was fined £15,400 after an employee was run over by a road roller.

Ayr Sherriff Court heard that on 3 November 2015 an employee of Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd reversed a road roller over the leg of fellow employee, Thomas Shaw. The incident happened at Knockbreck Road, Straiton in South Ayrshire, when the road was undergoing re-surfacing work.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the vehicle in question was operating without a flashing beacon and the reversing alarm was not working.

Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd pled guilty to breaching Regulation 5(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £15,400.

Speaking after the hearing HSE principal inspector, Graeme McMinn said:

“This case highlights the importance of regular pro-active maintenance and pre-use inspection of work equipment, including flashing beacons and reversing alarms.

“In this case, Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd failed to effectively maintain their road roller and it could easily have resulted in a fatality.”

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