

Construction company fined after worker fall

Two construction business partners have been fined after a sub-contractor suffered multiple fractures when he fell from an unsafe scaffold.

On 20 December 2018, sub-contractors were installing a roof light on a boot room extension as part of the refurbishment of a house on St James Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. They were not provided with a safe route to the work area from the scaffolding, as there was a board spanning a large gap and step up from the first lift of a scaffold on to the boot room roof. The board was not secured in place.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the scaffold had not been inspected by a competent person every seven days and there was insufficient edge protection around the work area to prevent people falling a distance liable to cause serious injury.

Two of the partners of Orchard Construction, of Queen Street, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974.

At Maidstone Magistrates' Court, Martin Hayes was fined £2,066 and ordered to pay costs of £7,500. Timothy Hayes was fined £2,800 and similarly ordered to pay costs of £7,500.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Nicola Wellard commented: "This incident could have been so easily avoided by simply ensuring that the scaffold was inspected by a competent person every seven days and any noted deficiencies rectified.

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

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. www.hse.gov.uk

2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/

3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

Engineering firm fined after worker is pulled into manual metal working lathe

Kent Auto Developments Limited, a classic Mini part manufacturing and engineering firm based in Romney Marsh, was sentenced today after a worker suffered injuries after becoming entangled in a metal working lathe.

On 10 August 2020, Joshua Halls was completing the process of polishing brake drums for a Mini, rotating on a manual metalworking lathe. Joshua was applying emery cloth by hand, a practice condoned by the company, when he was drawn into the machine which resulted in lacerations to his forearm and injuries to his neck and face. Similar occurrences in Great Britain have resulted in other serious injuries to workers such as severed limbs..

The incident was not reported to HSE, as is required under The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013, until three months after the incident.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the business had failed to implement a safe system of work in that employees had routinely polished brake drums with emery cloth by hand on the lathe, a task known to be dangerous due to the potential risk of entanglement of the cloth in the rotating parts of the lathe, which can result in serious personal injury. If the requirement to use emery cloth on a lathe is unavoidable, then tool posts and holding devices should be used.

Kent Auto Developments Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of The Health and Safety at Work etc Act. 1974 and Regulation 4(2) of The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. At Folkestone Magistrates' Court the company was fined £12,000 was ordered to pay £6,349.24 costs

After the hearing, HSE inspector Sam Brown commented: "We still see incidents like this, where unsafe work practices with machinery lead to injury, despite the existence of specific guidance published by HSE.

"Workers coming into contact with machinery is the fourth biggest cause of workplace fatalities in Great Britain, with 14 people killed in the year 2020/21. Over 50,000 non-fatal injuries were reported by employers in the same year.

"Employers should ensure that measures are taken to prevent workers from sustaining injury, where it is evident that persons are at risk of becoming entangled in machinery. It's important that, when people do get hurt, the relevant authorities are notified so that action can be taken to prevent recurrence."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents) and www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/1471/contents/made
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

For more information on safe practices, specifically in relation to the use of emery clothes metalworking lathes visit:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/eis2.pdf> and
www.hse.gov.uk/engineering/lathes.htm

Now's the time to get gas checks says regulator

Now's the time to get gas checks says regulator ☐☐

- HSE says regular checks can keep homes safe – and cut costs ☐☐
- Help is available for those struggling to pay for checks☐

☐Recent domestic gas incidents have attracted significant media coverage. HSE is reassuring people they need to be careful but not unduly concerned. ☐

☐Gas incidents can be devastating but remain extremely rare. There were 25 gas related fire and explosion incidents reported in 2020/2021, despite there being over 22 million households using gas across the country. ☐

☐HSE recommends homeowners get all gas appliances (boilers, cookers, and fires), flues, and pipework regularly maintained and serviced every year by a qualified engineer listed on the Gas Safe Register. ☐

☐The Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas businesses which are registered to work safely and legally on boilers, cookers, fires and all other gas appliances. By law, anyone working with gas in domestic or commercial premises must be listed on the register. Gas Safe registered businesses can be found on their [website](https://www.gas-saferegister.co.uk). ☐

☐Getting household gas appliances and pipes checked in summer can ensure your

home is safe while also helping to keep bills lower in winter. □

□That's the message from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who are encouraging people to get gas checks now before the weather turns colder later in the year and households use more gas. □

□Gas appliances should be regularly checked to prevent gas leaks and stop carbon monoxide being released. Regular servicing can also help gas appliances run more efficiently and in turn save money on household bills.□

□Help is available for those struggling to pay for checks. In some circumstances, suppliers can offer free gas safety checks through the Priority Services Register. For further advice and information homeowners can contact their gas supplier (the company they pay their bills to).□

□John Rowe, HSE policy lead for gas safety, said: "Gas is an incredibly safe way of fuelling your house. Serious incidents are still extremely rare, although of course for those involved they can be devastating.□ □

□"We should all be careful and not unduly concerned about using gas in our homes. We're encouraging householders to get a gas check. Doing so could save them money in the long run but will also keep them safe. The summer months are perfect time to get your appliances checked so come winter you know they are working safely and efficiently."□□

□For more information on gas health and safety visit HSE's [website](#).□□

□Notes to editors:□

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2. HSE news releases are available at: <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
3. HSE is happy to facilitate any media interview requests

Tips to keep gas safe: □□

1. Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix and service your appliances. You can find and check an engineer at GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.
2. □Know the six signs of carbon monoxide poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness.
3. Check gas appliances for warning signs that they are not working properly - lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks or stains on or around the appliance and condensation in the room.
4. Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm. This will alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.

5. Check both sides of your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. Make sure they are qualified for the work you need doing. You can find this information on the back of the card.
 6. Have all your gas appliances regularly serviced and safety checked every year. If you rent your home, ask for a copy of the landlord's current Gas Safety Record.
 7. If you smell gas call 0800 111 999. More information on what to do if you smell gas can be found at: [What To Do in a Gas Emergency – Gas Safe Register](#)
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Fined for refusing HSE inspectors entry to construction site

A man who was in control of a construction site in Scotland has been fined for not allowing two HSE inspectors access to the site to deal with unsafe work activity.

In 2021 multiple concerns about unsafe work at a construction site in Irvine had been sent to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). On 16 March 2021, two HSE inspectors attended the construction site and observed unsafe work at height taking place on a steel structure.

The inspectors tried to gain entry to the site, but the gates were locked. They spoke to the person in control of the site, Baldev Singh Basra, but he refused to unlock the gates and let them in. Despite explaining the powers to enter a premise given to HSE inspectors as part of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Mr Singh Basra still refused entry to the site.

After officers from Police Scotland attended and gained entry to the site, the HSE inspectors were able to take enforcement action to stop the unsafe work. Two workers were then found to be on the roof of the structure with no safe means of getting down. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service attended the site and rescued the workers from the structure.

At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court, Baldev Singh Basra of Loach Avenue, Irvine pleaded guilty to an offence under Section 33(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 for contravening a requirement of an inspector – namely refusing entry to a premise where unsafe work was taking place. He was fined £1,500.

Following the sentencing, HSE Principal Inspector Graeme McMinn said: "Inspectors appointed by an enforcing authority have the right to enter any premises which they think it necessary to enter for the purposes of enforcing health and safety at work and any relevant statutory provisions.

"They may only enter at a 'reasonable time', unless they think there is a

situation which may be dangerous. In this case, the priority of the inspectors was to deal with the unsafe work activity, and they could not allow the person in control of the site to refuse them entry to stop the unsafe work.”

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HSE investigates incident at Cornwall theme park

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is investigating an incident at a theme park in Cornwall after three people suffered injuries on a ride and attended hospital.

The incident happened at around 11.45am on 26 July at Flambards theme park in Helston, Cornwall.

HSE is making enquiries into what happened and the ride remains closed to the public.

Simon Chilcott, HSE Principal Inspector, said: “While incidents at theme parks are relatively rare, we are now gathering information to ascertain what happened.”

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2. HSE news releases are available at [HSE Media Centre](http://www.hse.gov.uk/press)