

Height Safety News



February 2015

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the February 2015 **Height Safety News**.
This month we discuss the imminent introduction of CDM 2015, and the appalling continuation of the UK's biggest W@H killer.



Will CDM 2015 work ?

CDM 2015 is almost upon us. Some are still voicing concern that the content might still change, however I think that the principles are now established and the progress is inevitable. The key change is to bring the

Principal Designer to the fore and to give them responsibility for co-ordination of the many and varied design inputs on a given project. Great care is needed in defining and agreeing who is a designer ? The Principal

Contractor will then develop the Construction Phase Plan, and then implement it pretty much what we have been trying to deliver for 20 years.

How this plays forward for the CDM-C remains to be seen, however I do think that the PD will need support and guidance. My hope is that he will recognise that need, ask for it early enough, and listen to/act on the advice given hmmm.

Perhaps the advice will need to be less general and more specific, relating to the unusual and less obvious hazards associated with the project

Perhaps we can move forward from "one size fits all" to bespoke project tailoring, even expert advice ?

The trouble with advice, is that it is often tainted. The lower the cost of the advice, the cloudier the colour, but it will be a brave PD who goes back to his Client to say .. "I need some help here, and it is going to need budget" .. few designers appear comfortable admitting this.

The loud cry from the involvement of the CDM-C , was always "too little, too late." I worry that this has not been heeded within the new regime, and that the PC will continue to use "sticking plaster" and "hope" on site, rather than being able to rely on well thought out, informed, and "up-to-date" design.



Fragile Surface Falls .. still the single greatest killer.

When I first became involved in work at height, the greatest single cause of death was falling through a fragile roof or roof-light. That was almost 40 years ago. Today the same is true, which is absolutely outrageous.

Earlier this month, Preston Crown Court handed out sentences of £200,000 and £45,000 for fatal fragile surface falls. They added costs of between £20,000 and £30,000. One fine included an 8 year custodial sentence.

<http://www.ppconstructionsafety.com/newsdesk/2015/02/03/contractor-guilty-of-corporate-manslaughter>

<http://www.ppconstructionsafety.com/newsdesk/2015/02/03/solar-panel-installer-died-in-rooflight-fall>

What will it take to make businesses understand ?

We have come so far in some areas of work at height, and yet we have so

far still to go in others.

Higher Safety offer all manner of work at height training, from supporting designers and project planners at concept stage and with CDM 2015, through workshops and project specifics, to management and operative training on site. We are currently experiencing high demand from within the concrete frame sector with edge protection, Alsipercha (hangman), open edge (leading edge), and catch fan training demands for operatives. We are also delivering many comprehensive courses for site managers on the complete height safety hierarchy. This course is modular covering a selection of the key work at height topics. More information can be found on the Higher Safety website.

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