

Safety Notice – Working at heights breaches

Date of issue: Friday, March 14, 2025

In February 2025, Henley have issued out 10 Safety Instruction Notices (SIN) to individuals and companies that have breached working at heights rules on our sites in Victoria alone. Each breach could have led to a serious injury from a fall.

What's happening onsite:

- Working on roofs before fall protection in place
- Climbing out onto Plaster suspended on crane with no harness or fall protection
- Tampering with scaffold, void protection, edge rails or other fall prevention devices
- Working off ladders near live edges or open voids
- Installing or removing fall protection devices in a manner that creates a live edge
- Watching others work at height without appropriate controls in place and not speaking up.

Suppliers/contractors and subcontractors must:

- Never work from heights above 2m without adequate fall protection in place (eg scaffolding, edge protection, void protection, trestles with handrails etc)
- Working on roofs before fall protection in place
- Ensure fall protection is completely installed and certified (eg check for handover certificate and visually inspect scaffold system)
- Ensure ladders are free from damage and used correctly
- Work to approved call-up schedule to ensure safe systems of work have been installed correctly and contact the site supervisor if your schedule changes which can affect the safe systems of work (eg. framer arrives to site to install trusses prior to edge protection being installed)
- Report all incidents and injuries to your manager and Henley Site supervisor in a timely manner

What Henley will do:

- Henley will coordinate the installation of safe systems of work, eg: scaffolding, edge protection, void platforms and will not schedule works to be undertaken until the installation is completed
- Henley supervisors, managers or the HSE Team can issue Safety Instruction Notices for any breaches. Eg tampering with scaffold or other safe systems of work, working from heights without fall protection etc.
- All Safety Instruction Notices are referred to Henleys CEO and General Managers for review. Safety Instruction Notices that are issued for the same reason, or for a serious safety breach, may result in termination of the contract/relationship.

WorkSafe: Falls from heights statistics (December 2020 – December 2024)

17

Fatalities in the construction industry were caused by a fall from height.

1898

Injury claims from falls from height in construction.

20-29 years

Most affected age group in construction for injuries from falls.

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