



SAFETY ALERT

A serious accident occurred recently at Palm Jumeirah where a worker fell over 8 metres to the ground whilst installing the roof GRC from the external scaffolds.

Investigation by EHS identified that :

- The worker sat on the work platform and leaned backwards falling off through the gap between the top guard rail and work platform.
- The supervisor failed to ensure the middle guard rail and toe board was in place to safeguard the worker when carrying out work on the external scaffolds.
- The worker wore his safety harness without anchoring the lanyard to a secure fixed point.
- The scaffold tag indicated that the weekly scaffold inspection was 3 days overdue.
- The worker did not attend any safety briefings before starting work.

All contractors carrying out similar work should take note of the following points:-

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *Even after scaffolds have been inspected and deemed safe for use, they must then be inspected weekly by a competent person from the contractor to ensure there are no missing components or unsafe alterations carried out which create unsafe conditions for the workers.*
- ➔ *All work areas must be inspected and deemed safe before commencement of the works.*
- ➔ *A specific risk assessment must be prepared for work at height. The assessment should be effectively communicated to all relevant workers/ subcontractors.*
- ➔ *The supervisor is directly responsible for the safety of those workers under his control. He must ensure that safe work practices such as anchoring of safety harnesses to a secure point are adhered to and enforce these practices.*
- ➔ *Workers must receive regular safety briefings to ensure they are reminded of the work hazards and how work is to be carried out safely.*
- ➔ *Any alterations to the scaffolds are only to be carried out by trained scaffold erectors with the supervision of the competent person.*