

Working at Height — Risk Assessment

Site-specific. Complete, sign, review. Delete rows that do not apply.

Assessor: _____ Site: _____ Date: _____ Review due: _____

Hazard	Who is harmed and how	Controls required	Further action	Done
Falls from ladders and stepladders	User. Death, spinal and head injury	Ladders are for short duration, low risk work only. Three points of contact. Secured. Correct angle. Consider a tower or podium instead		
Falls through fragile surfaces	Anyone on the roof. Almost always fatal	Assume every roof light and cement sheet is fragile until proven otherwise. Stagings, covers, barriers. NEVER walk on them		
Falls from unprotected edges	Anyone at height. Death or major injury	Guard rails with toe boards. Physical barriers, not markings		
Falling objects striking people below	Anyone below. Head and fatal injury	Toe boards, brick guards, debris netting, exclusion zones below, tools tethered		
Scaffold incomplete, altered or never inspected	Everyone using it. Collapse, fall	Handover certificate before use. Inspection before first use and at least every 7 days. Never alter a scaffold unless competent		
MEWP overturn or entrapment	Operator. Crush, fall, death	Ground assessed, outriggers, trained operator, harness where required, rescue plan		
No rescue plan for a suspended person	The person suspended. Suspension trauma within minutes	A rescue plan is required BEFORE work begins. Calling 999 is not a rescue plan		
Weather - wind, ice, rain	Everyone at height. Loss of grip and balance	Stop criteria agreed in advance. Wind speed limits for MEWPs and towers		
Untrained or unauthorised person working at height	That person and anyone below	Authorisation in writing for the specific equipment		

Assessor	Reviewed by	Date	Review due

Scope and limitations — read before use

IMPORTANT — SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS. This document is a template and guidance product. It is a starting point, not a finished assessment. Every workplace is different, and only the employer knows their own site, vehicles, people and tasks. The legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998, the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and all other relevant law remain with the employer at all times and cannot be transferred to PHW Services or to any document. You must read, adapt and complete this material for your own site, satisfy yourself that it is suitable and sufficient, and seek competent advice where you are unsure. PHW Services does not warrant that using this pack will prevent an accident, prevent enforcement action, or achieve compliance in any particular case. Nothing in this pack is approved or endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive.

Contains public sector information published by the Health and Safety Executive and licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. This pack is not an HSE publication, is not approved or endorsed by HSE, and does not reproduce the HSE logo. Always refer to the current HSE guidance and legislation at hse.gov.uk, which may have changed since this pack was written.