

CASE STUDIES OF HEALTH, SAFETY & FIRE WORK COMPLETED

Fatal Accident Investigation. A refurbishment company employee died following chemical exposure with subsequent HSE Prohibition Notice & prosecution. The company was guided through risk assessments, operator training & the purchase of extraction systems, so that work carried on safely & the firm remained in business.

Floor Collapse Investigation. A construction company was erecting a timber-frame complex when the third floor collapsed destroying the second & first floors, thankfully causing no injuries. The investigation of the highly technical construction method highlighted management failures which could be utilised to prevent recurrence.

Competent Person Support. An educational organisation had fire defects & obstructions spotted during a damning insurance audit which highlighted serious risks. The organisation was assisted to solve all problems by meeting & coaching the relevant managers & providing fire training to staff.

Health & Safety Risk Assessment. A charity's concerns over a crumbling wall foundation were ignored, despite children spending time near wall. A detailed risk assessment was completed with measurements, photographs, video & trial drilling, which provided compelling evidence of the danger & the landlord's contractors made area safe.

Policy & Procedure. A customer drank coffee-machine cleaning-fluid in a restaurant and the HSE began investigations. Procedures were written & staff were trained to prevent recurrence & the enforcing authority was satisfied since the facility now presented no risk. The injured person did not take legal action.

Training. A handyman was exposed to a high-risk of death during rooftop maintenance with possible falls of 20 metres. Access safety equipment was installed & engaging training was delivered, so that it was easy for work at height to continue, following simple written guidance & for the work to be done safely.

Fire Audit South London. Two fire exit routes were present but both were compromised by the combination of fire doors not self-closing on one route & unsafe glazing & seized-shut doors on the other route. The client was advised NOT to use the premises until safe means of escape were provided.

Fire Audit Westminster. Four fire exit routes were present but one had an incorrectly-installed final fire exit door mechanism, meaning persons on one stairway of the four would not be able to exit the building. The managing agent recalled the installation company & the exit was made safe.

Fire Audit City of London. Two fire exit routes present but plant-room fire doors below ground level were jamming open & not self-closing & stairs could become filled with smoke. Painting contractors on second staircase created serious fire life risk in the tall building. Managing Agent took immediate action.

EXPERT WITNESS SAMPLE CASES

FATAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS by accident date

- 1992. Roofer Norman Harris falling 10-metres through fragile roof light in warehouse.
- 1994. Painter falling from scaffold which had been subject to unauthorised alteration in factory.
- 1997. Refuse collection operative Paul Spiller broken neck in vehicle mechanism during collection round.
- 2002. Engineer head crushing beneath dough mixing machine on overloaded forklift truck in bakery.
- 2009. Handyman Rocco Carofalo falling from stepladder & racking in bakery.
- 2009. Paint stripper Colin Pocock overcome by chemicals in small, enclosed bathroom in domestic property.
- 2015. Forklift truck driver Marian Iancu crushed between glass plates & truck in warehouse yard
- 2018. Roofing labourer Mark Willis falling 5-metres from unprotected roof of commercial property.

EXPERT WITNESS SAMPLE INVESTIGATIONS by report date

- 1995. Shower of chemical contaminated water over welder in sewage plant.
- 1996. Shower of sewage from hospital infectious unit through ward ceiling onto person below.
- 2003. Bariatric patient multiple falls from chair with oedema & ulcerated legs; high manual handling risk for district nurses.
- 2005. Chlorine gas release from hospital engineer accidentally mixing bleach & Hydrochloric acid, causing evacuation.
- 2009. Hot coffee ingestion containing cleaning fluid in public cafe suffering swollen throat & difficulty speaking for a week.
- 2011. Patient caregiver fall & leg injury, entering ambulance by ramp.
- 2013. Chemical ingestion by visitor of coffee machine cleaning fluid in coffee shop.
- 2014. Life-changing eye injury to a self-employed worker from cement dust on construction site.
- 2014. Faulty electrical installation in a domestic property.
- 2014. Leg injury involving failure of a fold-down seat in an accessible shower room.

2015. Head injury where member of the public hit on head by falling bricks & roof slates.

2014. Serious leg injury to a self-employed worker falling onto a sharp object on a construction site.

2017. Patient fall from hospital roof; gave evidence in Royal Courts of Justice 2018.

2018. Serious leg injury of a school child who fell from a climbing frame.

2018. Severe scald from a boiling drink spilled over a patient's leg in hospital following surgery.

2019. Banksman leg crush by a MEWP (Mobile Elevating Work Platform).

2019. Forklift truck driver being crushed between glass plates & his truck in warehouse yard.

2019. Allegation of dangerous vehicle movements by logistics company.

2020. Roofer falling 5-metres from unprotected roof of commercial property.

2020. Drug delivery driver violently assaulted by assailant.

2020. Lead poisoning of a child through paint stripping during refurbishment works.

2021. Chemical ingestion on construction site.

2021. Crushed leg in trench collapse accident.

2021. Fall in NHS shower room.

2021. Amputation of fingertips in guillotine.

2022. Fall from stillage attached to forklift truck, spinal injuries.

2022. Fractured leg following catastrophic goods lift failure & fall.

2022. Catastrophic spinal injury during extreme manual handling task.

2022. Violent attack on staff member assaulted in hotel.

2023. Suicide of stressed employee.

2023. Fall on holiday, ankle injuries.

2023. Fall from a tower scaffold, head injuries.

2023. Fall in a gymnasium, hand injuries.

2023. Teacher kicked by child. Head injury.

2023. Lead paint contamination. Child at risk.

2023. Manual handling accident. Back injury.

2024. Fall on a vessel. Shoulder injury.

2024. Sign fall from shop front. Various injuries.

2024. Manual handling in food factory. Back injury.

2024. Karting event crash, internal injuries.

2024. Poor Covid risk assessment. Serious Long Covid effects.

2024. Fall during PE class. Fractured forearm & dislocated elbow.

2024. Anosmia risk assessment following road traffic accident. Risk of not smelling chemicals or smoke at work or home.

2024. Inadequate Covid risk assessment & controls. Serious brain fog and ongoing health anxiety.

2024. Inadequate Covid risk assessment & controls. Respiratory issues and loss of sense of taste and smell.

2024. Inadequate Covid risk controls. Hospitalisation, induced coma, unable to speak, lost mobility & absence seizures.

2024. Slip and fall in McDonalds Restaurant.

2024. Delivery driver crushed by falling 1.2 tonne load.

2025. Butcher fall on wet floor injury.

2025. Leg fractured by falling wheelie bin.

2025. Patient suicide in NHS ward

2025. Patient attempted suicide in private healthcare facility