



SUBJECT: Lifting at Height

RECIPIENTS: All Service areas (including schools)

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Retail Giant Ignored Warnings on Lift

Earlier this week, a high street retailer was fined £2.2m over an accident that left 20 year old part-time worker paraplegic for life. A top heavy roll cage laden with hundreds of litres of paint had fallen on the 20 year old as she attempted to manoeuvre it from a lift to the shop floor.

The interview with the head of the public safety team at the council, which prosecuted the case, reveals how:

1. The retailer ignored several warnings that the lift was not levelling with the ground floor;
2. National-level risk assessments weren't adapted to local conditions;
3. The retailer left critical gaps in training and risk communication

Lessons To Learn:

LCC Managers are reminded to ensure that:-

- All faults on/with lifts within their premises are taken seriously and followed through with corporate property and the maintenance company concerned.
- Risk assessments are prepared, are relevant then brought to the attention of employees. Ensure risk assessments are reviewed periodically & revised to take into account significant changes. In particular following any incident;
- Ensure that relevant and specific training is provided on the operation & use of any goods lifting equipment.

See the [Health & Safety Executive](#) website for further information on the safe lifting.