



SUBJECT: Falling from the sky!

RECIPIENTS: All Service areas (including schools)

ISSUE DATE: Jan 2018 REF: HSB96

Is your caretaker, taking care?

A company has been fined after an employee died after falling through a skylight. The Crown Court heard how the deceased was working with another employee on the roof, re-siting a heater and new chimney flue, when the incident occurred in October 2014. They suffered severe injuries and died from these injuries approximately six months later.



The [Health and Safety Executive](#) found that the work at height on a fragile roof was not appropriately planned, supervised or carried out in a safe manner. The organisation pleaded guilty of breaching Regulation 4 and Regulation 9(2) of the [Work at Height Regulations 2005](#). The firm was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £35,000.

Tragic incident

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector said: “A well planned job would have identified the risks from working on a fragile roof, so that steps could have been taken to prevent the risk of anyone falling from height. This tragic incident was entirely avoidable if appropriate controls had been put in place.

“Proper precautions should be taken when working on roofs and near fragile skylights, even for short duration work. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”

Further Information

[HSE Working at Height Webpage](#)

[LCC Children’s Microsite – Working at Height Safety Sheet](#)

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)