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A Case to Save

Fatal fall from an elevated metal pallet

To reach an elevated jammed sliding door, a worker was lifted on a metal pallet using a forklift truck.

While attempting to pry open the door with a crowbar, the worker fell from the metal pallet to the ground. The worker succumbed to his injuries and died in hospital.

The employer was instructed to review their risk assessment and safe work procedures on forklift operations. The Ministry of Manpower is investigating.



Advisory Note

(Please note that the advisory note is provided for the benefits of enhancing workplace safety and health, in no way the information is to be misconstrued as implying any liability on any party)

1. Prior to any commencement of work, mandatory risk assessment shall be conducted in relation to the safety and health risks posed to any person carrying out the work. Identified risk control measures and safe work procedures shall be instituted, communicated and implemented to ensure the safety and health of workers involved.
2. Primarily, forklifts are designed for lifting, moving and stacking of materials and not people. It should not be used to transport people or lift persons for work at height.
3. Operators of forklifts must have completed mandatory training before they are allowed to operate the forklifts.
4. Appropriate mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) such as scissor and boom lifts, should be used to provide temporary safe access to work at height.
5. MEWPs shall be thoroughly examined and certified safe for use by an [MOM's Authorised Examiner](#) once every 6 months. It is strongly recommended that a MEWP be checked daily and a weekly inspection be conducted to ensure its safe use.
6. All operators of MEWPs must be trained and familiar with the performance and controls of the MEWP they are going to use.
7. Appropriate fall protective equipment, such as full body harness with an adjustable lanyard (used to provide work restraint and adjusted to be as short as possible) should be worn by the worker when working from a MEWP. Job specific risk assessment must be conducted to identify the appropriate type of fall protective equipment to use.

You can access the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee (WSHAC) website [HERE](#) for the **Technical Advisory for Falling from Height**.



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