

Wilkins Safety Group

Weekly Update Newsletter



Welcome to this issue - Friday 19th August 2011 - of our Update Newsletter

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends.

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£1 fine for death!!!!



We keep hearing about the large fines that are handed out for breaches of compliance, yet here we have a £1 fine issued to a company for a death. Do read the article carefully as it does give the reason for such a low fine.

Satellite TV installation firm Foxtel Ltd, has been prosecuted following the death of a worker who fell while carrying out work on a roof.



Engineer Noel Corbin, 29, from New Addington, Croydon, suffered fatal head injuries after falling 13.5 metres from a four-storey house onto a side patio in Belsize Park, London on 3 February 2008.

The Old Bailey heard safety equipment found in Mr Corbin's van was unsuitable for the type of work he was undertaking.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation after the incident exposed a number of failings at Foxtel Ltd including failure to ensure work at height was properly planned, organised and monitored.

The Old Bailey heard Mr Corbin was working on a satellite TV dish on the property's roof apex and had accessed the roof via a dormer window. Before his fall he was also seen working on another satellite dish located on a flat roof. Evidence suggests Mr Corbin fell from the flat roof itself or while walking across the sloping roof.



The court was told when Mr Corbin was first employed by Foxtel Ltd, references were not sourced from his previous employer, nor were any training certificates provided. Mr Corbin was also not accompanied on any initial visits so therefore no assessment could be made of his competence.

As a result, the HSE investigation concluded as soon as Mr Corbin stepped onto the roof, he was at high risk of slipping, tripping or falling. Most of the work on satellite dishes Mr Corbin undertook involved work at height on large properties with more than two storeys.



Foxtel Ltd, based in Wates Way, Brentwood, Essex, pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Today, the firm is no longer trading and was shown to have no assets. The court fined the company £1.

Charles Linfoot, HSE inspector, said:

"Mr Corbin's death has had a devastating effect on his family made all the more tragic by the incident was easily preventable. Owing to the foreseeable risk of falling and the lack of suitable access equipment, the work should have been cancelled.

"Foxtel should have carried out a full site-specific risk assessment, planning and organising the work to be executed in a safe manner. It is not acceptable to simply delegate health and safety duties to employees without adequate instruction, training, monitoring or supervision.

"I hope the conviction of Foxtel Ltd sends a clear message to other installation companies in London and elsewhere that where access to residential properties from height is required, companies are ultimately responsible for carrying out a full site-specific risk assessment."



Falls from height remain the most common cause of workplace fatality. In 2008/09 there were 35 fatalities, 4,654 major injuries and a further 7,065 injuries that caused the injured person to be off work for three days or more.

The moral of this story is about the lack of proper training and completing the site specific risk assessments. We continually report in this weekly newsletter on the various training courses available and the legal requirement for companies to ensure they have proper training in place.

So we remind you that there is a new batch of training courses in September – Dates to be posted on website www.wilkinssafety.co.uk this week. These courses will include:

1 day Safety Awareness for Owners/Directors
3 day Managing Safety for Safety Directors/ Managers

1 day Safety Awareness for Building Site Operatives
½ day Asbestos Awareness Course
½ day Manual Handling Course
½ day Office Safety Course

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If you would like to discuss any of the issues highlighted in this newsletter or book early for a course, then drop an email to Jon on jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk or call the office **01458 253682**



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Your Business is Safer in Our Hands