



# Bovis

Lend Lease

Global Alliance

## Environment, Health & Safety Alert

### Fall from unsecured steps – Lessons learnt

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One of our contractors suffered a head injury yesterday when his steps toppled over and he struck his head on the forecourt. A hospital check up indicated no serious injury and the engineer is expected to resume normal duties in a few days. **HE WAS EXTERMLY LUCKY AND HIS INJURIES COULD HAVE BEEN VERY SERIOUS.**

The root cause was not securing the steps to the machine being worked on with an adjustable strap as required in the safety method statement.

- The use of unsecured / free standing ladders or stepladders as working platforms is prohibited on our sites and has been for some time.
- Towers or podium steps are always our preferred option.
- Where space is very constricted – if work is of short duration and low risk, steps can be used PROVIDED the Site Manager is in agreement AND the steps are secured or footed by another for the duration of the works.
- For Maintenance works the exact location and use of any access equipment MUST be discussed and agreed with the store manager. It must be clearly recorded on the clearance certificate.
- Always follow your method statement. If this cannot be achieved you MUST call your supervisor immediately. Agree any changes with them and ensure they are shown on a new clearance certificate.
- Changes or amendments to ANY working at height method statements for maintenance works MUST BE AGREED WITH OUR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT FIRST – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- We are undertaking an urgent review of procedures for working at height and will communicate any changes in due course.