FATAL ACCIDENT CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY i

"An office worker overbalanced and fell to his death from a third floor window. In order to open the window, a 360 degree pivoting window, the deceased person stood on some trunking, overbalanced and fell to his death."

CASE STUDY ii

"A handyman fell to his death from a tree. The deceased, an experienced handyman, was carrying out work, outside his normal duties, on a tree situated near a mobile home on a caravan site. The deceased was removing branches from the tree when he fell approximately 2.5 metres onto paving slabs. The deceased died of head injuries received as a result of the fall. "

CASE STUDY iii

“A bar/cellar man, whilst carrying out his duties, consumed a quantity of pipe cleaning fluid. The cellar man cleaned the pipes before a lunch-time session. After cleaning the pipes, with the fluid, the cellar man tasted the beer. Later in the day he informed the manager of the public house that he could still taste the cleaning fluid. The manager advised the cellar man to go to hospital but he declined. The following day, the cellar man was found collapsed and was taken to hospital where he subsequently died.”

CASE STUDY iv

"A rider was fatally injured when he fell from a horse hired from a riding stables. The deceased was an experienced rider and was escorted by voluntary escorts. An examination was carried out by a master saddler and by HSE's laboratory. These checks found that the saddle tree was broken and had been in a state of disrepair form some time prior to the accident. The stable had failed to maintain this particular piece of equipment in a safe condition".

CASE STUDY v

"A member of a gliding club was killed in an accident. The club's ground based winch launcher was not properly maintained. This resulted in the glider crashing after being launched at low height".

CASE STUDY vi

"A resident in a home for the mentally handicapped was scalded to death whilst attempting to take a bath". Just before the incident the deceased asked if he could change his clothes. Shortly afterwards he was found on his knees at the side of the bath with his head and arms in the water. This residents' care plan contained certain ground rules, one of which was when he was bathing or showering he must be supervised at all times.”

CASE STUDY vii

"The deceased, an employee at a retail outlet, fell to his death whilst replacing roofing panels on a garage/workshop. The deceased person was replacing some wooden roofing panels on the roof of the garage/workshop, the roof has a shallow pitch of 10 degrees, when he fell to his death. There is little doubt that if the guidance in the booklet entitled "Safety in Roofwork" had been complied with this accident could have been prevented".

CASE STUDY viii

"A warehouse worker in a steel stockholders was killed whilst slinging and moving hollows section in the warehouse area. He fell approximately 4 feet to his left, striking the side of his head on a steel rod protruding from the end of a bundle of rectangular hollow sections. There were no witnesses to the fall, but immediately before the accident he had been operating a crane pendant while standing on a bundle of flat steel rods. He was wearing a safety helmet at the time of his death."

CASE STUDY ix

"A warehouse worker fell to his death from a platform stepladder. The deceased was an experienced worker, but had been warned only the week before, following an incident involving climbing racking and throwing stock to the floor, that he was not following company rules. He was asked to find an item of brassware in the warehouse, and asked for the use of the fork lift truck, as the stock was stored on racking approximately 3 metres from the floor. However, in the event no truck was used. There were no witnesses to the accident, but the deceased was found on the floor, next to a 4 metre aluminium stepladder."

CASE STUDY x

"A warehouse manager was killed while unloading packs of aluminium extrusions weighing 400 kg each. He was using a fork lift truck in the unloading process when some of them became stuck. He attempted to free the load on his own, by standing on the forks of the truck. Two of the packs fell from the lorry, crushing him against the mast of the truck."