

LKL Safety Note

LKL Supports the Farm Safety Partnerships campaign on Safe Working at Heights

The Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) is promoting Safe Working at Height message throughout October to December.

During these months a lot of farm maintenance is carried out and last year there were 7 fatalities from falls at height whilst carrying out these types of jobs. In addition there were a large number of injuries some of which may have been life changing.

Probably all of these accidents were totally preventable if a few things were put into place.

There are a number of questions that should be asked before you attempt work at height. Don't rush in and be tempted to use the fork attachment or bucket of a telehandler. This is **unsafe work at height** and is very hazardous and illegal.

Remember you don't have to necessarily fall very far to receive a serious or fatal injury.



Remember that a lot of farm roofs are classed as fragile and both the roof and the skylights are not designed to take a persons weight. Specialist equipment and training is required to work on these types of roofs.



Remember to: -

- Plan the work - Ask yourself honestly - Have you the right knowledge, experience and equipment to do the work safely?
- Avoid work at height. – Can you carry out the operation from the ground using extendable tools e.g. for gutter clearing?
- Use safe engineering solutions. There is a lot of equipment now out there designed to provide safe methods for working at height including for fragile roofs. Training in its use will be required.
- Do you have the right equipment and knowledge and experience to carry out the job safely? If not then it maybe time to engage a specialist contractor to carry out the work. Be sure to check their competence and risk assessments. Typical safe work equipment could be the use of scaffold, mobile elevated work equipment, and safe roof access equipment.

FSP president Stuart Roberts says: -

"Even if we've always done something a certain way, we need to take the time to consider the safest course of action. Whether it's finding a way to do the job from the ground, investing in training staff or hiring a professional contractor, all it takes is a bit of planning to make sure we have the right people, the right training and the right equipment for the job at hand."

The NFU has produced a Work at Height guide for Farmers – see link here: -

<https://www.nfuonline.com/nfu-online/farm-safety-leaflets-2019/safety-focus-on-working-from-height/>

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