

# Incident Alert

## 2018-010 Near Miss - Worker Fall Through Opening in Scaffold



### BACKGROUND

A Subcontractor was tasked to remove excess Ritek Wall braces and ply strips from level 4, near Stair Core 2. Whilst the Subcontractor stepped from the concrete slab onto the scaffold working deck, 3 LVL boards, which had previously been fixed due to them overhanging, gave way, resulting in the Subcontractor falling through the opening. The contractor was able to pull himself back up, however was exposed to a potential fall approx. 2.9m to the below working deck. No injuries sustained.

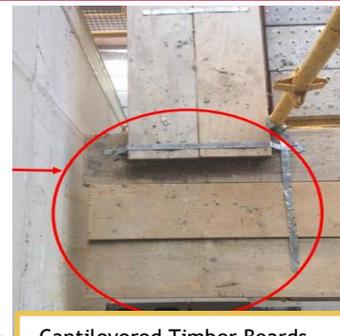
Just prior to the incident occurring, a subcontractor Scaffolder had removed the tube that was securing the boards (as seen in the photo), whom was unaware the cantilevered boards were not supported underneath.

The scaffolder presumed the tube securing the boards was a “trip hazard” and consequently removed the “hazard”, unaware of the new risk created in doing so.

For further information on this incident please contact Peter Heathcote (HSE Advisor) on 0429 805 219.



Support Tube, which had been **removed** by scaffolder



Cantilevered Timber Boards, showing location in area where contractor stepped on

### ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Projects to ensure that Scaffolding companies have adequate Supervision present on site to ensure High Risk Works carried out are in accordance with site and legislative requirements.
- Subcontractor Supervisors to provide adequate instruction and training to workers prior to commencing.
- Workers to be reminded, they should never “assume” a control is in place (i.e. Assuming the cantilevered boards were supported underneath when removing the tube above), especially when it comes modifying scaffolding.
- Incident to be discussed at toolboxes and displayed on the site noticeboard

### PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

- Project Management team to make themselves familiar with the minimum scaffold requirements set-out in the Georgiou [Scaffolding - Work Instruction](#) and Project Specific Health & Safety Management Plans.
- Workers to continually be educated of critical risk and controls relating to the site. Where scaffolding is present on a site, critical controls to be communicated through the site specific induction and toolbox talks and workplace inspections.
- Scaffolding must meet AS/NZS 4576 *Guidelines for scaffolding* and the AS/NZS 1576 *Scaffolding* series. (Inclusive of any client, contractual and/or any other state specific legislation relating to scaffolding).
- Regular scaffold inspections to be carried out by experienced/competent personnel
- It is recommended for Georgiou site Management personnel, who do not have sufficient knowledge in scaffolding requirements and are likely to have scaffolding constructed on the project, to consider completing a scaffold awareness training course.
  - Preferred training provider: <https://www.mbawa.com/products-services/training/training-courses/scaffold-requirements/>. (Note - WA Only, Eastern States will need to liaise with HSE Business Unit Lead for alternative vendor/training courses).

### APPROVED BY

Steve Okill (General Manager- Building) DATE: 26/02/2018  
Date to be removed from noticeboard: DATE: 06/04/2018