

VIEW ON SAFETY



PREVENT REPEATING,
DISCUSS AND SHARE HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS WITH EACH OTHER!

Subject: Fall from height during chimney demolition
Date: April 2024

Cause

A subcontractor of DDM was demolishing a remaining piece of masonry chimney. In the process, they attached a hoist to a piece they had cut free. This piece was constantly being pulled in with hoists to drop into the chimney.

While pulling in a piece of masonry, an employee fell behind the piece. The employee had his fall harness on, but it was hitched to a scaffolding pipe that had an open end at one end. As a result, the line slipped off the scaffold pipe and he fell behind the piece of masonry, into the chimney. The fall amounted to over 5 metres, with the employee suffering serious injuries.

Correct securing points should always be provided from the work preparation stage to attach yourself to when working at height!

To demolish the higher part of the chimney, an approved climbing scaffold had been built around the chimney where there were adequate attachment points for fall protection. However, for the remaining part of the chimney, standing scaffolding was chosen during the work. No consideration was given to correct attachment points by any party.

The occurrence of fall hazards

- From 2 metres in Germany and 2.5 metres in the Netherlands, fall protection is required by law. However, falls can occur from much smaller heights (or depths)! This too must be taken into account.
- Bear in mind that for many clients this standard is lower, often around 1.8 metres or even 1.5 metres.
- When we are at height, fall hazards are fairly easy to spot. However, in our work, we often create fall hazards by demolishing parts in the work and making holes or openings.
- Fall hazards can also arise when working from ground level into the ground. Think of excavations or around cellars and wells.

How to prevent falls?

- Fall hazards should be seen before work starts, and appropriate measures should be taken.
- These measures should always follow the occupational hygiene strategy. In other words; we first look at whether we can tackle the cause at the source. For example, by carrying out the work from the ground or erecting a guardrail.
- PPE such as fall harnesses are the last tools you may use!

These kinds of incidents are potentially deadly!
If we carry out work where we are not sure about safety we STOP the work and find a safe alternative.

ATTENTION: INSTRUCTIONS ARE MEANINGFUL; ALWAYS USE YOUR COMMON SENSE!