

Castellano, Kiralee

To: Castellano, Kiralee
Subject: Legal Advisor - Fall from height leading to death

Dear legal advisor,

Lendlease is reaching out to report an incident occurring on our building premises.

At Approximately 8pm yesterday (12/07/22) a 40 year old labourer fell from a height, leading to his death.

Demolition works were being done at night because the coal tar on the roof of the warehouse would release hazardous gases if disturbed in the heat of the day. The site had adequate lighting, though none of the workers on the job were using fall protection. As the roofing material was removed, sheets of play 1.5m x 2.5m sheets were exposed, and any damaged sheets needed to be replaced. The worker was to follow behind his colleagues as they replaced the plywood, and dispose of the damaged sheets of plywood they had removed. This was done via a chute. Leading up to the incident, after a worker removed a sheet of damaged plywood, he had run out of nails to attach the replacement plywood so he walked away to get more. This exposed an opening in the roof that was unguarded. This was not communicated to the remaining crew members, and visibility of the whole was hidden by silver-coloured insulation inside the roof. Whilst heading to the chute to dispose of a damaged sheet of ply, the worker stepped into the opening. He fell through the insulation and plunged 8m to the ground.

The worker crew immediately radioed for first aid, and then radioed the supervisor. A call to emergency services was made. The workers removed the hazard by leaving the roof and barricading the entry to the roof, and erected barricades to contain the scene. The first aider attended to the worker until the ambulance arrived, the worker was then pronounced deceased at the scene.

The police were then call and upon arrival, a crime scene was established. The WHS Regulator was also notified immediately and attended with the police. All workers on the site were notified, and the site was closed.

An incident report has been completed (see the attached), and all workers/parties involved are scheduled to give interviews to the police and WHS Regulator.

Can you please advise with any recommendation son how to proceed with legal action.

Many thanks,
Kiralee Castellano
Site manager
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