
Scaffolder And Employer Fined For Fall Arrest Harness Violations

Description

In a recent case that underscores the critical importance of safety in the construction industry, a scaffolder and his employer faced significant penalties for failing to adhere to safety regulations. The incident occurred last October when Gary Roser, a self-employed scaffolder from Hastings, was observed working on a four-storey scaffold without the necessary safety harness. This oversight not only endangered his life but also posed a risk to the public below.

A Health & Safety Executive (HSE) inspector, who happened to be passing by, witnessed Mr. Roser balancing precariously on scaffolding tubes approximately eight meters above the ground. Despite the availability of harnesses in a nearby van, Mr. Roser chose not to use one. This decision was a blatant disregard for established safety guidelines that mandate the use of fall arrest harnesses when working at heights exceeding four meters without adequate edge protection.

During the hearing at Hastings Magistrates' Court, the details of the case were laid bare. The court learned that Giant Scaffolding Ltd, Mr. Roser's employer, had repeatedly failed to respond to written inquiries from the HSE inspector. This lack of communication raised serious concerns about the company's commitment to safety. The penalties imposed were severe: Mr. Roser was fined £750 and ordered to pay costs of £643, while Giant Scaffolding Ltd faced a hefty fine of £15,000, in addition to £5,000 in costs.

HSE inspector Melvyn Stancliffe emphasized the importance of safety measures in the workplace, stating, "The simple measure of wearing a harness can save scaffolders from death or serious injury. A basic common-sense approach to work is all that's needed to prevent a possible tragedy." His words remind workers and employers alike of the dire consequences that can arise from neglecting safety protocols.

The court proceedings revealed that this was not Mr. Roser's first encounter with safety violations; he had been observed working in similar circumstances back in 2008. This history of negligence raises questions about his commitment to safety and the effectiveness of the training provided by Giant Scaffolding Ltd. The company's repeated failures to address safety concerns suggest a troubling pattern of behavior that could endanger both their workers and the public.

As the construction industry continues to evolve, the importance of adhering to safety regulations cannot be overstated. The case of Mr. Roser and Giant Scaffolding Ltd serves as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of neglecting safety measures. It highlights the need for ongoing training, communication, and accountability within the industry. Employers must prioritize the safety of their workers, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to perform their jobs safely.

In conclusion, the penalties imposed on Mr. Roser and Giant Scaffolding Ltd reflect a growing recognition of the importance of safety in the construction industry. As the HSE continues to monitor compliance with safety regulations, it is imperative that all workers and employers take these matters seriously. The simple act of wearing a harness can mean the difference between life and death—a

small price to pay for the safety and well-being of everyone involved in the construction process.

CATEGORY

1. West Sussex

POST TAG

1. Gery Roser
2. Giant Scaffolding
3. Melvyn Stancliffe (HSE)
4. Scaffolding & Access Sector

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