

ALERT TOPIC	Working at Height Breach / Unsafe Act	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Regional Managers, Site Managers Site Operatives and Supervisors Other interested people	AUTHORISED BY:	Karl Auger
DATE OF ISSUE	Thursday 22 October 2026	DISPLAY UNTIL:	April 2027

What Happened?

On **14th October 2026**, a site team was carrying out concrete repair/resin injection works on a building canopy using a mobile tower scaffold for access.

When a target work area became out of safe reach from within the tower platform, a supervisor bypassed established safety protocols to save time. Rather than descending to the ground to safely reposition the tower, the supervisor **climbed over the integrated guardrails and carried on working approximately 10–15 metres along an exposed concrete canopy** with no edge protection or fall arrest equipment in place.

This unauthorized activity breached the Safe System of Work (SSoW). The incident was viewed and reported by a client representative, yet **no one challenged or stopped the unsafe act**.

Why Did It Happen?

- **Shortcuts Over Safety:** A conscious decision was made to save time by not descending and moving the mobile tower scaffold along to the relevant target work area.
- **Failure of Supervision:** The individual carrying out the unsafe act was a supervisor—the very person responsible for enforcing health & safety standards on site.
- **Lack of Peer Intervention:** This unsafe act was witnessed by individuals who failed to challenge the individual & stop the activity.

Questions we ask ourselves

- Why is this man working on an unprotected roof edge?
- What is his motivation to work unsafely?
- Does he understand that this is unacceptable behaviour?
- Does he understand the implications of his death or serious injury on himself, his family, his colleagues, his friends, the emergency services, etc. etc.?

CRL does not want any of its employees, contractors, visitors etc. to work unsafely. The CRL Health and Safety Policy reinforces this philosophy

Key Lessons & Immediate Actions Required

- **Never Bypass Guardrails:** Scaffold guardrails are there to keep you alive. Never climb over, lean past, or step outside a secure platform unless a specific, approved fall-protection system is actively in place.
- **Reposition Equipment Safely:** If your work area is out of reach, you must descend to the ground and safely move the tower.
- **At planning stage:** Evaluate all possible access equipment to be used, would a MEWP reduce the temptation to carry out the unsafe act.
- **Exercise your right to STOP unsafe activities:** Every person on site has the right—and the absolute responsibility—to stop any operation they believe is unsafe. Speak up immediately if you see an operative risking their life.
- **Adhere to the SSoW:** Deviating from the agreed Safe System of Work without an authorised review is a strict breach of safety policy.

REMEMBER: No task is so urgent or important that it cannot be done safely.

SHEQ ALERT