

SAFETY ALERT



WE DON'T JUST TICK BOXES

JULY 2015

SITE MANAGER'S BREACH OF DUTY RESULTED IN WORKERS DEATH

Following a serious incident that has occurred this Safety Alert has been drafted to highlight what happened.

Description of the incident



Paul Ben Priestley was the site manager for Euro Dismantling Solutions Limited who were undertaking construction work at the Cadbury's Somerdale factory.

The work involved demolition and removal of redundant services installation including large fibreglass tanks which had been cut in half. The removal of the demolition arisings was being undertaken using a mini digger to lift the tanks through an opening in the structure as part of a drop zone below. On 9th November 2011 Bristol Crown Court heard how demolition work was taking place when 31-year-old James Stacey drove a mini digger out of a fourth floor opening.

The opening was not properly protected to prevent the machine falling from the building and the tank got stuck on the digger and pulled the vehicle with it. Stacey died from his injuries.

Euro Dismantling Solutions Limited (now in liquidation) pleaded guilty after they failed to ensure the safety of Stacey whilst carrying out demolition work. The firm was fined £80,000.

Site Manager, Paul Ben Priestley (54) was also charged under Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 after failing to take reasonable care. He denied the charges but was sentenced at Bristol Crown Court on 21 May 2015 and was given an 18 month custodial sentence, suspended for two years and was fined £7,500.

Points to Consider

- Site managers have delegated responsibilities to ensure safety precautions are implemented on site.
- Site managers and supervisors should be appropriately trained and have sufficient resources and authority to fulfil these delegated responsibilities.
- Demolition and lifting operations are inherently dangerous and need to be properly planned by a competent person.
- No exposed edges creating a risk from falls from height should be unguarded.
- Where plant is utilised in proximity to exposed edges ie building openings, excavations and trenches etc stop logs and peripheral guarding should be installed at access points to restrict plant movement and supplemented by a banksman where necessary.
- Every employee has a responsibility to safeguard themselves and others from danger and should report unsafe activities and conditions to their manager for rectification.

Issued by C.G. Lawson; SRC