
Safe Work Method Statement

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for Working at Heights

Project: High Rise Construction Project

Location: 456 High Tower Lane

Date: October 7, 2024

Prepared by: Jane Smith, Safety Coordinator

1. Project Details

- **Project Manager:** James Anderson
- **Site Supervisor:** Sarah Lee
- **Safety Officer:** Michael Roberts

2. Activity Description

The activity involves working at heights above two meters using scaffolding and ladders to install external cladding on a new high-rise building.

3. Legislation and Standards

- Work Health and Safety Act
- National Code of Practice for Working at Heights
- Company Health and Safety Policy

4. Identification of Hazards

- Falls from heights due to unstable working platforms or slip hazards.
- Falling objects that could injure workers or pedestrians below.

- Weather conditions that may compromise safety on scaffolding (e.g., high winds, rain).

5. Risk Assessment

- **Falls:** Risk level is high. Potential for serious injury or fatality.
- **Falling Objects:** Risk level is moderate to high. Potential for injury to persons below the work area.
- **Adverse Weather:** Risk level is moderate. Could lead to slips or loss of control.

6. Control Measures

- **Falls:**
 - Only trained personnel were allowed to work at heights.
 - Use of fall arrest systems, including harnesses and safety nets.
 - Regular inspection and maintenance of all scaffolding.
- **Falling Objects:**
 - Use of toe boards and tool lanyards to prevent tools and materials from falling.
 - Mandatory hard hats for everyone in the vicinity.
- **Weather Conditions:**
 - Monitoring of weather updates via local weather service.
 - Suspension of work during high winds or electrical storms.

7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Safety harnesses and lanyards for all workers working at heights.
- Hard hats, safety boots, and high visibility clothing for all site personnel.
- Gloves and eye protection as required by task specifics.

8. Training and Competency

- All workers must have completed a recognized safety training program specific to working at heights.

- Regular refresher training courses to be attended by all site workers.

9. Emergency Procedures

- Detailed rescue plan in place for fall incidents, including on-site rescue equipment and trained personnel.
- Immediate reporting procedures for all incidents and near-misses.
- Emergency contact information readily accessible to all workers.

10. Review and Monitoring

- Weekly safety inspections by the Safety Officer to ensure ongoing compliance with the SWMS.
- SWMS to be reviewed and updated following any incident or introduction of new work methods or equipment.

11. Worker Agreement

- All workers involved in this task must read and sign this SWMS to acknowledge understanding and acceptance of the risks and controls.