

Bunyan Baptist Church

Stevenage



Refreshing community for everyone

Working at Heights Policy

4th Edition

Policy history

Policy author	Eric Beach
Replaces	3rd Edition – Nov18
4th Edition Approved	Church Meeting on 22nd March 2022
Review Date	Three years after approval [or in the case of change of any of the details]

Bunyan Baptist Church Working at Heights Policy

Purpose

In 2020/2021 falls from height accounted for 35 fatal accidents at work accounting for 25% of all worker deaths over the year. Falls from height are the single biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injury.

Bunyan Baptist Church has a responsibility to do all that is reasonably practicable to prevent anyone from falling and ensure compliance with the Working at Height Regulations 2005.

Definition

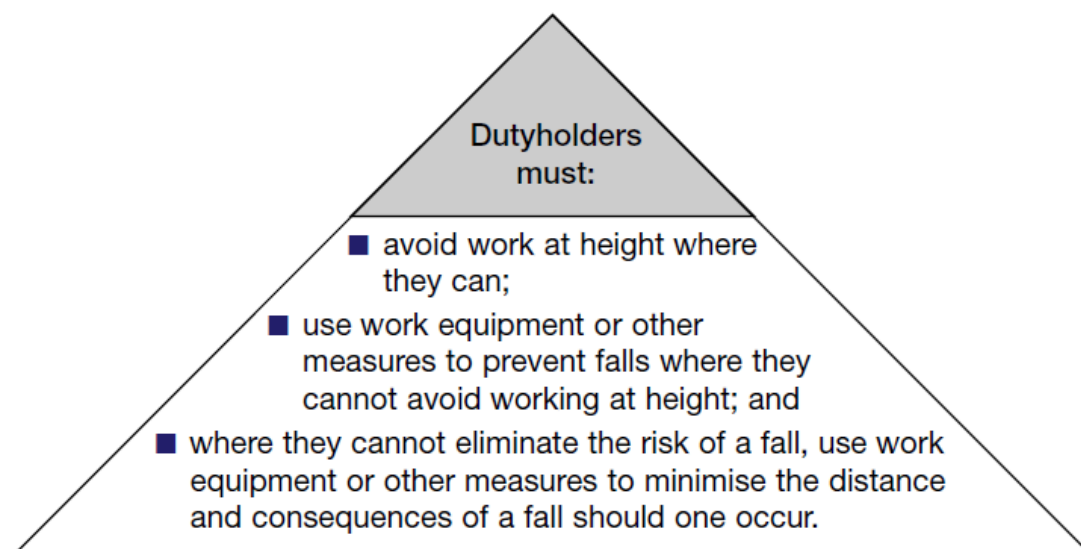
A place is defined as being 'at height' if a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level.

In effect that means that someone climbing on a chair or work surface is 'working at height'.

How will we comply?

The overriding principle of the regulations is that we must do all that is reasonably possible to prevent anyone falling.

There is a simple hierarchy for managing this:



We will comply by following the following simple rules:

- Avoid working at height [ie climbing on things] wherever possible
- Make sure that any working at height is properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in as safe a way as is reasonably practicable to prevent any persons falling a distance liable to cause injury.
- Exterior work should be postponed if the weather is likely to make it dangerous
- Working at heights should never be done by an individual working alone. There should always be a second person to steady a ladder or call for help if an accident should occur. If there are only two people working together then at least one should be at ground level.
- Work at heights should only be carried out by people with a level of training and / or experience that makes them competent to do it.
- If it has to be done it must be in a safe way with suitable equipment designed for the job and in such a way as to make a fall unlikely
- The risk of objects falling onto people below must be controlled. This means that the area below the work must be kept clear and cordoned off if necessary.
- Any equipment used must be checked for defects before use and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Plans must be made for emergencies and rescue if necessary [eg making sure you know where the first aid kit is and that you have access to a phone to call for an ambulance]

Safe use of ladders

A guide to safe ladder use can be found at
<http://www.ladders-999.co.uk/pdf-downloads>
[Website checked and working – Feb22]

Ladders will be locked and keys stored in the key safe. Before taking use of a ladder, users will have to consider the safety aspects of the work being proposed and will make reasonable efforts to make the process as safe as reasonably possible.