SCIRT Rebuilding Infrastructure

LEARNING LEGACY

Lessons learned from one of New Zealand's most challenging civil engineering projects: rebuilding the earthquake damaged pipes, roads, bridges and retaining walls in the city of Christchurch 2011 - 2016.

Critical Risk 8 Health and Safety Toolbox – working at height and depth

Story: Health and Safety

Theme: Programme Management

A document which outlines how to work safely at height and depth, created to discuss with site staff at on-site "toolbox talks".

This document has been provided as an example of a tool that might be useful for other organisations undertaking complex disaster recovery or infrastructure rebuild programmes.

For more information about this document, visit www.scirtlearninglegacy.org.nz

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Health and Safety Toolbox 8

Critical risk– **Working at Height and Depth**

Working at Height and Depth is our **number 8 critical risk** because of the potential consequences:

Personnel Injury Including:

⇒ Falling from shallow trenches, ladders, scaffolding, deep excavations or elevated work platforms resulting in serious injury or death

A fall can happen from any height, the consequences can be FATAL, it is a CRITICAL RISK for you.

How can I prevent this?

Working next to trenches

⇒ Backfill or cover open excavations where possible

⇒ Identify the Risk of fall in your risk assessment (job start, pre start, etc.)

⇒ Define your exclusion zones

⇒ Use physical edge protection

⇒ Safe access agreed by benching or industrial grade ladder

Working on structures

⇒ Use physical edge protection

⇒ If you have to use fall arrest and restraint equipment (harnesses), you must be trained

⇒ All fall limiting devices and equipment have to be certified and checked before you use them

⇒ Scaffolding has ben to setup and inspected by professionals

⇒ Safe access and egress by industrial grade ladder or steps. Do not work off the ladder

Working on the edge

Follow these RISK MANAGEMENT steps: