

## 房屋署助理署長(屋邨管理)(二)姚鄧季先女士主導辭

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公屋的日常清潔、維修及保養工作，雖然比起其他大型建築項目所牽涉的風險相對較低，但相關的從業員仍不時需要使用梯具及流動工作平台作為輔助工具來進行「高空工作」。據房屋署屋邨管理處工傷意外的統計數字顯示，2008年共有兩宗從梯具墮下受傷的個案。我們認為這些意外大都是可以避免的，只要業界及前線從業員對梯具及流動工作平台的安全使用有正確的認識，時刻保持良好的工地安全意識，齊心協力建立一個安全文化，大家便可以朝著「零意外」的目標邁進。

梯具及流動工作平台的選擇和應用，看似簡單，但事實上，在使用時有很多地方需要多加留意，以免錯誤地使用，引致不必要的工業意外。一般來說，梯具並不是可靠的高空作業工具，因為大多數梯具的設計都不夠穩固，而且可供活動範圍較窄。有些梯具雖然經過改良，但很多時仍未能達到法例的要求。為安全起見，使用流動工作平台可說是高空作業的理想工具。

工業意外的受害者大多數是員工，要避免意外發生，僱主必須為員工提供合規格的高空作業工具，同時亦要給予適當的培訓。另一方面，員工亦須熟習安全使用守則，與時並進，持續提高安全意識。

總括而言，無論是梯具或流動工作平台，都有正確的使用方法，在使用前大家應了解如何使用這些梯具及工作平台，以確保工作安全及遵守相關條例。這節座談會的主題是「安全高空工作 — 梯具及流動工作平台」，目的是詳細探討各種工具的正確使用方法，希望能糾正「梯具是萬能的高空作業工具」這種不正確的傳統思想。當然，若正確使用，梯具亦是方便可用的輔助工具。同樣地，在使用流動工作平台時也要按照相關的守則及指引操作，才是可靠的高空作業工具。

以下短片，將會介紹梯具及流動工作平台的正確使用方法，希望可藉此減少，甚至消除，因錯誤使用梯具而引致的工地意外。

Compared with large development projects, the routine cleaning, repair and maintenance works in public housing estates involve lower risk, but workers still have to work at height and therefore need to use ladders and working platforms as ancillary tools. The statistics of injury-on-duty kept by the Estate Management Division of the Housing Department showed that, in 2008, there were two cases of injury as a result of falling from ladder. We believe that, in most circumstances, this kind of accident is avoidable. If the industry and frontline workers possess the proper knowledge on the safe use of ladders and working platforms, and are willing to join hands to build a safety culture and maintain good awareness of site safety, we are one step closer to the goal of "zero accident".

Simple as it looks when we choose and use ladders and working platforms, we must pay attention to a number of points in order to avoid improper use of such tools for working at height, otherwise it may lead to industrial accidents which are in fact preventable. Generally speaking, ladders are not a reliable tool for working at height because they are not stable enough and they do not provide adequate room for movement. Though the designs of some ladders have been improved, such ladders still fall short of the statutory requirements. For better safety, working with mobile working platform is the best choice.

Workers are generally the victims of industrial accidents. In order to avoid accidents, employers should in the first place provide workers with the proper tools for working at height and give them appropriate training. On the other hand, workers should familiarize themselves with latest safety code of practice and maintain their safety awareness.

In short, be it a ladder or a working platform, there is always a correct way of using it. We should learn how to use ladders and working platforms properly so as to ensure work safety and comply with the relevant legislation. The title of this session of seminar is "Safe Working at Height — Ladders and Mobile Working Platforms". It aims to explore the correct ways of using various tools for working at height. We hope it will debunk the traditional myth that "the ladder is the universal tool for working at height" which is in fact not correct. If ladders are used properly, however, they are certainly a convenient ancillary tool. The same applies to mobile working platforms in the sense that they must be used according to the relevant code of practice and guidelines in order to serve as a reliable tool for working at height.

The following short film presents the correct ways of using ladders and mobile working platforms. I hope it can help minimize, if not eliminate, site accidents resulting from the improper use of ladders.