



Safety Advice 48-2013 (Nov) (2013)

The following Safety Alert courtesy of Transpower concerns use of incorrect climbing equipment resulting in a broken limb, in an office environment.

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FIRST ALERT

1 December 2013

Cleaning Contractor Fractures Arm (Level 4, 93 The Terrace)

EVENT

At 1:30 pm on 26 November 2013 a cleaning Contractor from City Cleaning Limited fell off a chair while replacing batteries in a paper towel dispenser located in the kitchen on level 4, 93 The Terrace.

As a result the Contractor fractured her left arm and is off work until at least 10 December 2013.

The Contractor should have been using an appropriate platform for working off the ground. In this case a step ladder had been provided.



IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Staff on the floor came to the Contractor's aid
- The injured Contractor visited a medical centre to have her arm x-rayed
- City Cleaning Limited commenced their own investigation and provided Transpower with a report
- The Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment was notified

KEY LEARNINGS

- Always use an appropriate platform, not a chair to reach items that are above head height
- If work above ground level is needed Ensure an appropriate platform is close by and easily accessible. A step ladder will now be permanently located at 93 The Terrace.
- Consider lowering the hand towel dispenser or replacing it with a product where the batteries can be more easily accessible
- If ladders are still required, ensure all the Cleaning Contractors are trained on how/when to use ladders