



# HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

## Working in Loft Spaces

### WHAT HAPPENED

An operative entered the loft space in order to tape and joint the spandrel panel joints to fire stop them. The roof had been felt and battened, the plasterboard ceiling had been installed and the safety deck had been removed.

The operative did not use a ladder to gain access to the loft, he climbed up using the bannister to help him gain access. As the operative was making his way to the spandrel panels, he lost his footing and fell through the ceiling and landed on the stairs. He sustained serious back injuries.

### ACTION TO TAKE

**WHO NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION:** Contracts Managers, SMs/ ASMs, Site Agents, Site Teams, Spandrel Panel Erectors and Operatives that work in loft spaces

#### WHAT TO DO

- The Fire stopping for the spandrel panel joints must be done before the safety deck/ bird cage is removed. Ideally this should be done by the spandrel panel erectors.

#### WHAT MUST BE DONE IF LOFT ACCESS IS REQUIRED

- All work must be planned.
- Work that requires operatives to enter the loft space must be planned and RAMS must be in place.
- Loft work should be carried out under a Permit to Work, issued by the site team.
- A secured/footed ladder will allow safe access and egress into the loft.
- Walk or crawl boards must be fitted between the ceiling joists to allow safe movement around the loft.
- Any tasks that requires a working area , walk boards must be fitted to access the working area, a working area must be formed using flooring, edge protection must be fitted.
- Lone working should be avoided when working in lofts.
- Suitable task lighting should be used.