

SCAFFTALK

Safety Bulletin from Safety & Access Ltd

******* Scaffold Services has been fined £7,500 plus £7,000 costs over the collapse of 8,000 square foot of scaffolding at a site in Surrey.**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted

***** Scaffold Services, of Chaldon in Surrey,

for breaching health and safety laws which led to

the incident on the 18 December 2009.



Staines Magistrates' Court heard how ***** Scaffold erected sheeted scaffolding around a building in Copenhagen Way, Walton-on-Thames, to enable a separate contractor to refurbish the roof.

Once the work was completed, the structure was partially removed on 17 December 2009, leaving some of the sheeted scaffolding still standing. During the early hours of the following morning, a 200 foot long, 40 foot high section of the scaffolding was blown to the ground.

The HSE investigation showed the scaffolding was not installed according to the original drawings and had not been adequately tied. It was left in an unsafe condition overnight while being dismantled.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Denis Bodger said: "This was a serious incident that could have resulted in severe injury or worse, it was sheer luck that meant no one was in the way of the scaffolding when it collapsed.

"Scaffolds should be designed by a competent person or built to a recognised standard. At no stage during erection, use or removal should they be left in an unstable state where they could collapse. They should be adequately tied or other effective means taken.

If you require support with scaffold management and support, contact Safety & Access via the address below for more details.

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