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Changing Behaviours In The Roofing Industry

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Tripartite Alliance for
Workplace Safety and Health

Work at Heights Symposium 2022



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2021 has not ended well. In November 2021, there was a report of a worker who lost his life while working at the roof level

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- Roofing Association Singapore was formed in 2021.
- Primary focus on changing the safety culture of roofers and other trades working at height.
- Take ownership to continuously improve our WSH systems and processes to make workplaces a safe and healthy place for workers.

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- RAS has witnessed first-hand that the Work at Height Taskforce has continuously supported industries by rolling out many:
 - Programmes
 - Initiatives to help stakeholders build up their work-at-height safety standards and capabilities.
Strengthen WSH practices and to build a safe work culture.

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- RAS has also played a part in WSH Council's effort to develop a work-at-height collateral.
 - Used as a Work-at-Height Toolkit for Supervisors.
- More can be done, and Roofing Association is working with industry stakeholders and training centres such as Global Training Centre.

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- One of RAS key initiative was to form a taskforce to:
 - Spearhead education and certification
 - Headed by our Honorary Secretary, Mr Andy Lim of Eltraco International Group, assisted by Mr Jason Ong of Building Associates
 - To develop a work-at-height at roof level course.
 - Our vision is to have the course eventually become a Specialist Safety Orientation Course - Specially designed for working on the roof to complement the current Construction Safety Orientation Course.



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- Focus will be safety while working on:
 - Installation
 - Maintenance of the roofs
 - Solar panel installation
 - Various trades that will require to access and work on the roof

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RAS Video

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WSHCOUNCIL

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- It is also important that the safety culture is ingrained in our stakeholders and workmen.
 - Workmen need to understand the importance of working at height.
 - Might have had different occupations while in their home country.
 - Might not have worked at such heights.
 - Wrong methodologies that would then be passed on from one workman to another.

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- Supervisors and companies will also need to adopt a positive culture towards safety.
- When RAS first met:
 - Common discussion point among roofers was that:
 - Contracts awarded to roofers, often does not include a provision for preliminary for roofers to beef up safety.
 - RAS is hoping to have discussions with the relevant stakeholders such as:
 - WSH Council
 - Singapore Contractors Association (SCAL)
 - Building Construction Authority of Singapore (BCA)



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- To see how:
 - Safety preliminary cost can be included in the contract of roofers and parties who would need to work at the roof level.
 - To develop a set of guidelines for contractors to provide the necessary safety measures

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- Culture shift would need to happen from the mind-set of having the cheapest contractor would need to be moved away from.
- Roofing Association Singapore hopes to be a key driver of this pivot.
- Being stake holders of any given construction or maintenance contract, we are all in this together.

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- Having laid out our vision, the Taskforce formed by Roofing Association Singapore hopes to have the support of the community to complement our efforts to further promote work-at-height safety.
- Many project will start to speed up as we go back to normality.
 - Every stake holder, be it:
 - The roofer
 - The contractor
 - The clients
 - The authorities
- Always remember to work safely.
- Every life matter and matters more than deadlines.

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- Challenge all stake holders:
 - Constantly remain vigilant
 - Play our part in building a safe and healthy work environment
 - Everyone can go home safe and sound to our families.

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Thank you

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