



Near-miss – Swivel Chair

Description of incident:

A worker stands on a chair to reach some items on a shelf that are out of reach. The chair swivels and the worker jumps down. The worker steps back up on the chair to retrieve the items.

The worker doesn't think there's anything wrong. He always stands on a chair to reach the shelf. And he never gets hurt. He doesn't have a crystal ball to see that if he does it again next week, when the chair swivels, he will lose his balance and fall, breaking his back.

Root Cause of Incident:

- Items stored on the shelf are in regular use.
- Chairs and other makeshift items are often stood on to reach items.

Preventive action:

- Storage is rearranged to bring regularly used items within reach of floor level to reduce work at height.
- Safer access equipment is provided for those items out of reach.
- Doing house-keeping on a daily basis.