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Last Updated: Thursday, 16 June, 2005, 17:04 GMT 18:04 UK

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## Judge makes safety 'sack' appeal

**A judge has called on the construction industry to sack employees who do not follow safety regulations.**

Judge Corinne Philpott made the comment as she fined three firms £22,500 for breaches of health and safety rules.

The charges followed the death in 2002 of Charles O'Connell, 23, on a building site at the Foyleside shopping centre.

Londonderry Crown Court heard he died after stairs fell on him when he jumped between floors. He had a harness, but it was not attached to a safety line.

Judge Philpott said she was sure that none of the defendants who included McLaughlin & Harvey, Foylespan Flooring and sub-contractor Patrick Murphy from Ballyquin Road in Limavady, wanted to re-live that day.

She said lessons must be learned from Mr O'Connell's death.

Speaking afterwards, Ken Logan, a principal inspector for the Health and Safety Executive, said the judge had indicated the industry must enforce site safety rules.

"She even went on to say that if an employee is breaking site rules and safety rules then the company would have no option but to sack them," he said.

He said that everyone in the industry had a part to play and added that the construction industry, with five fatalities so far this year, had a "pretty poor record".

"The very sad thing is that a young man of 23 years of age lost his life here - had everything been done that could have been done that might not have been the case," he added.



Safety rules must be followed, a judge has said

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