



## **Work Safety Alert** **Worker Caught Fire while Repairing Timber Floor**

- 1. Date of Accident :** March 2014
- 2. Place of Accident :** A residential unit
- 3. Summary :**

A worker suddenly caught fire while repairing timber floor applied with flammable coating earlier. He sustained serious burns and passed away later.

### **4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :**

Contractors/employers undertaking internal renovation works with the use of flammable substances should:

- conduct task specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures;
- as far as practicable, use non-flammable substituents instead of flammable substances for the work so as to eliminate any fire hazard;
- where the use of flammable substances is inevitable, strictly prohibit smoking, the use of naked flame or any other processes likely to ignite flammable substances;
- provide forced ventilation to remove any hazardous substances and maintain sufficient fresh air supply while at work as far as practicable;
- properly label all containers holding chemical substances to alert workers of the particular risks of the chemical substances and the associated safety precautions required;



- provide workers with adequate information, instruction and training on safe use of chemical substances; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Dangerous Substances\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document