



Work Safety Alert **Struck by a Pile Casing**

- 1. Date of Accident :** February 2014
- 2. Place of Accident :** A foundation site
- 3. Summary :**

A welder was struck to death by a falling pile casing detached from the hook of a crawler-mounted crane while the casing was being lifted by the crane.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent workers from being struck by objects during lifting operations with the use of cranes, contractors/ employers responsible for any lifting operations and the relevant sites should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct job specific risk assessments and prepare a lifting plan with due regard to the selection, position and operation of the crane, the slinging method and the work environment;
- formulate and implement an effective safe system of work which should include the following:
 - appointing a responsible person for the overall control of the lifting operation;
 - establishing a danger zone for the lifting operation and exercising strict access control measures with suitable warning notices in place to avoid unauthorized man-entry into the zone especially when the load is raised, lowered and traversed off the ground;
 - adopting a suitable slinging method for handling a load, with due regard to the weight, shape and nature of load as well as the



conditions of the danger zone;

- ensuring that every part of a load to be raised or lowered by the crane is adequately secured so as to prevent danger arising to persons as a result of its slipping or displacement;
 - provision and maintenance of an effective safety latch on the hook of the crane to prevent detachment of lifting gear or loads;
 - stationing a signaller to give effective signals to the crane operator who does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the vicinity; and
 - ensuring that an effective communication system, among all personnel involved in the lifting operation, is in place before the commencement of the lifting operation;
- provide crane operators and workers with adequate information, training and instruction in respect of the safe system of work for lifting operations; and
 - implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes¹](#)
- [《地盤意外個案簡析系列 – 流動式起重機》¹](#) (Chinese version only)

¹ Click to view the document



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