



**Work Safety Alert**  
**Struck by the Detached Telescopic Boom**  
**from a Truck-mounted Crane**

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2014
2. **Place of Accident :** A building construction site
3. **Summary :**

A worker working in the vicinity of a truck-mounted crane was struck to his death by its telescopic boom, which suddenly detached and dropped down.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Contractors :**

The owner of a crane and the contractor 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;
- ensure that the crane is in safe working order through testing and thorough examination by a competent examiner periodically, and also regular inspection by a competent person;
- 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;
  - ensuring that the crane should only be operated on uniform, level and firm ground, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer;



- 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 being raised, lowered and traversed off the ground;
  - ensuring that all outrigger beams of the crane are fully extended as far as practicable;
  - using suitable mats/timber blockings at least 3 times larger in area than the floats and to completely support the floats;
  - maintaining a right angle between the cylinder and the float;
  - forbidding to lift the boom beyond the working range as specified by the manufacturer;
  - 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 multiple activities performed simultaneously on site, 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\) Regulations<sup>1</sup>](#)

- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [《地盤意外個案簡析系列 – 流動式起重機》<sup>1</sup>\(Chinese Version Only\)](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

---

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