



Work Safety Alert **Struck by an Excavator**

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

A welder was struck to death by the slewing boom of an excavator when he was working in its vicinity.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent worker from being struck by mobile plant, contractors/employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments paying special attention to any interfaces between the operation of the excavator and work activities nearby where workers engaged in such work activities may be endangered by any movement of the excavator;
- develop and maintain an effective safe system of work in respect of the mobile plant operation and the work activities to be performed nearby;
- properly segregate and impose strict access control to the area within which the mobile plant may operate or move to ensure that workers are not allowed to enter the operation zone unless steps have been taken to assure a dead stop of the mobile plant;
- assign suitable person(s) to administer the access control system and effectively communicate the striking hazard of the mobile plant by, e.g. posting suitable warning notices at conspicuous positions;



- station a signaler to give effective signals to the plant operator who does not have a clear and unrestricted view within the operation zone of the plant;
- install suitable safety devices on the mobile plant, such as closed-circuit televisions to enhance the operator's views (especially the rear view and other blind spots) and equip the plant with audio/visual alarms to alert persons working nearby for any of its reversing or swinging motion;
- ensure that every worker who is permitted to enter the operation zone of the plant is wearing a high visibility or reflective vest;
- provide relevant safety training, information, instruction and supervision to the involved personnel such as the plant operator, the signaler, and person(s) administering the access control as well as workers concerned;
- ensure the plant is properly maintained and in a safe working condition; and
- implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures and precautions.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations¹](#)
- [地盤意外個案簡析系列 — 搬土機械¹](#) (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.