



Work Safety Alert

Buried in Sand inside a Concrete Batching Plant

- 1. Date of Accident :** October 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A concrete batching plant
- 3. Summary :**

A worker standing on a sand stockpile of a concrete batching plant during unloading of sand was later buried in sand. He was certified dead on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/Employers:

To prevent any persons from being buried in stockpile of materials such as aggregate, fine sand, etc. during the loading/ unloading process, the proprietor/ employer should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the operation of machinery/ plant concerned, the volume and characteristic of the materials being piled and the environment of the storage area, to identify all associated potential hazards;
- formulate and implement a safe system of work to eliminate all hazards associated with the machinery/ plant operation and stockpile of materials which should include, but not limited to, the following:
 - developing safe work methods and procedures for loading/ unloading of materials;
 - demarcating a danger zone for stockpiling of materials with suitable and adequate barriers and prohibiting any persons entering the zone



- during the loading/ unloading process;
 - displaying suitable warning notices at conspicuous positions to prevent unauthorized man-entry into the danger zone;
 - where access to the danger zone cannot be avoided, adopting a permit-to-work system with safety measures in place such that, among others, the loading/ unloading of materials is ceased with the power supply of the machinery/ plant involved switched off and locked; and
 - providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safety measures;
- establish and implement a visitor management plan prohibiting unauthorised entry to the operation zone by any persons making temporary stay at the workplace and restricting their access to low-risk areas; and
 - develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
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Labour Department



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