



Work Safety Alert **Buried in Soil and Rocks at a Fill Bank**

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A fill bank
3. **Summary :**

A dump truck driver was buried by soil and rocks being unloaded from his truck at a fill bank. He was certified dead later in the hospital.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being buried by construction materials/ wastes during dumping operation, proprietors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all associated potential hazards, taking into consideration the operation procedures and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of the risk assessments;
- prohibit any persons, including the dump truck driver, entering the dumping zone when dumping is in progress unless other effective safety measures have been taken;
- display suitable warning notices at conspicuous position to prevent unauthorized man-entry into the danger zone;
- ensure that the dumping operation is carried out on firm and level ground;



- prohibit the driver from leaving the driving cabin of the truck during the dumping operation as far as practicable;
- whenever a driver is required to leave the driving cabin in the course of dumping to perform any essential tasks such as detaching the locking bar of tailgate or clearing blockage at tailgate opening, ensure that the tipping body of the truck is reverted to its normal horizontal position to prevent accidental displacement of materials/ wastes;
- ensure that the parking brake of the truck is applied, the engine is switched off and the ignition key is removed from the truck to prevent unauthorised operation whenever the driver is not staying in the driving cabin;
- ensure that any truck for dumping operation is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of vehicle and is competent to operate the truck by virtue of his experience;
- provide all workers/ employees and other relevant personnel in the workplace with necessary safety information, instruction and training;
- ensure that all workers/ employees are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

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

¹ Click to view document



- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction sites¹](#)

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.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.