



Work Safety Alert **Collapse of a Metal Working Platform**

- 1. Date of Accident :** August 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A foundation site
- 3. Summary :**

While two workers were working on a metal working platform to dismantle a metal structure, the working platform suddenly collapsed. The two workers fell onto the ground for about 5 metres and sustained serious bodily injuries. One of them passed away subsequently.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers engaged in metal structure dismantling work, the contractors/employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the nature of operation and the working environment to identify all potential hazards;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for dismantling of the metal structure with due regard to the results of risk assessments and having properly endorsed;
- where any critical member of the metal structure is to be removed, taking all necessary safety precautions to ensure the stability of the remaining structure;



- providing and ensuring the use of suitable scaffolds for the dismantling work that are of sound material, good construction and adequate strength; free from patent defects and securely supported to prevent collapse or undue movement;
- ensuring that every scaffold is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days as well as after any exposure to weather conditions likely to have affected its strength or stability;
- properly maintaining the scaffolds, including formulating and implementing an effective checking system for timely detection and prompt rectification of any defects of the scaffolds to ensure their structural integrity and stability in the course of the dismantling work;
- providing and properly maintaining suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work;
- engaging trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person for the dismantling work;
- ensuring all site personnel and workers involved are provided with relevant safety information, instruction and training; and
- developing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety precautionary measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)¹

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.

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