



Work Safety Alert Fall onto a Stack of Metal Struts

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** An open storage yard
3. **Summary :**

A worker was suspected to have tripped over or fallen onto some stacked metal struts in an open storage yard. He sustained serious head injury and passed away a few days later.

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

To prevent any persons engaged in loading/ unloading and stacking of materials from falling from height or at same level, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the process of loading/ unloading and stacking of materials, taking into account the nature of the work, the shape and size of the materials, the height of the stack, and the related working environment;
- formulating appropriate safe work methods and procedures for loading/ unloading and stacking of materials including the relevant preparation work with due regard to the results of the risk assessment;
- prohibiting any persons to work on unsafe places of work such as on the top of stacked materials unless adequate safety precautions had been taken to prevent trips and falls;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;



- providing and ensuring the use of suitable working platforms or elevating work platforms where practicable for the work being carried out at height;
- where provision of working platform is impracticable, providing every worker/ employee engaged in the work with a suitable safety harness that is continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system; and ensure the proper use of them by the workers/ employees throughout the work;
- providing each worker/ employee employed at the workplace with a suitable safety helmet with a chin strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee;
- assigning a competent person to supervise the overall operation of loading/ unloading and stacking of materials, including the relevant preparation work;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures before they are assigned to work; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)

¹ Click to view document



- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)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.

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