



## **Work Safety Alert** **Struck by Falling Units of Plant**

- 1. Date of Accident :** April 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A commercial building
- 3. Summary :**

While units of an air-conditioning plant were being lifted by a derrick crane installed on the roof, a lifting wire rope of the crane suddenly broke. As a result, the load being lifted fell and injured three pedestrians on the pavement below.

- 4. Work Safety Alert for Owners/Contractors :**

To ensure the safe use of cranes for lifting operations, the crane owner/contractor responsible for the lifting operation should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments and devise a lifting plan with due regard to the nature of work, operation of the crane, the slinging method, and the environment that may be affected by the lifting operation;
- formulate and implement an effective safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:
  - developing safe work methods and procedures for transporting units of plant;
  - appointing a responsible person for the overall control of the lifting operation;



- setting up a danger zone with suitable and adequate barricades to ensure that access of persons, including workers and pedestrians, are strictly restricted during the lifting operation;
- ensuring that every chain, wire rope or other lifting gear is tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner before it is used;
- appointing a competent person to inspect every lifting gear before it is used on each occasion to ensure its mechanical integrity;
- adopting a suitable slinging method with due regard to the weight, shape and nature of the load;
- appointing and stationing a signaller to give effective signals to the crane operator to ensure safe lifting operation where the operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the load, its vicinity and any object or persons liable to be adversely affected by the lifting operation;
- ensuring that an effective communication system, among all personnel involved in the lifting operation, is in place throughout the lifting operation;
- ensuring that the crane is certified to be in safe working order before it is used through periodic tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person;
- ensuring that the crane is fitted with an automatic safe load indicator;
- ensuring proper maintenance of the crane, including wire ropes and the automatic safe load indicator;



- providing crane operators and the workers involved with adequate safety information, instruction and training in respect of the safe system of work for lifting operations; and
- implementing effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [《地盤意外個案簡析系列 – 流動式起重機》](#)<sup>1</sup> (Chinese Version Only)

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### **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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document