



Work Safety Alert Trapped in between a Vehicle and a Fork-lift Truck

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A vehicle maintenance workshop
3. **Summary :**

A worker while engaging in brake testing of a vehicle by means of a Brake Tester in a vehicle maintenance workshop was trapped to death between the vehicle which suddenly moved and a stationary fork-lift truck.

4. Work Safety Alert for the Proprietors/Employers:

To prevent any person from being endangered when a vehicle is under testing by a Brake Tester, the proprietor of the workshop/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the followings:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the brake testing operation, taking into account the working environment, the type of vehicle being tested and the testing equipment involved;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the brake testing operation with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and the instructions/ recommendations provided by the manufacturer of the Brake Tester;
- demarcating an operating zone for brake test and exercising strict access control with suitable warning notices displayed at conspicuous positions to prevent unauthorised access to the zone where testing is being carried out;
- refraining any persons from entering into the operating zone when brake testing is in progress, in particular at the front and rear ends of the vehicle being tested;



- maintaining the floor of the operating zone in level, clean and non-slippery condition;
- ensuring the Brake Tester including its control and sensing devices is regularly checked, examined and properly maintained in safe and effective operation;
- chocking those wheels of an axle that are not under testing to restrain the vehicle from displacement during testing of the braking performance of the wheels of other axles;
- ensuring the brake test is carried out by a person/persons who is/are competent by virtue of training and practical experience;
- ensuring that the vehicle under brake test is at all times under the control of a competent person who holds a valid driving license of the type of vehicle being tested and stays on the driver seat of the vehicle during the brake test to prevent any undue motion of the vehicle;
- ensuring the remote control device of the Brake Tester is readily available for use where required; otherwise, assigning another competent person to assist in the work;
- if the brake test is to be carried out by more than one person, taking all necessary steps to ensure that a communication system is provided to all personnel involved in the brake testing operation for effective coordination;
- providing necessary safety information, instruction and training to all persons engaged in the brake testing operation and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure 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

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.

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