



Work Safety Alert **Drowned in Water for Seepage Test**

- 1. Date of Accident:** August 2025
- 2. Place of Accident:** The roof of a residential building
- 3. Summary:**

While a waterproofing worker was draining dyed water for a seepage test of waterproofing works on the roof of a residential building, his left arm became stuck in a drainage opening, causing his face to be submerged in water and resulting in his drowning. The worker passed away 13 days later.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers engaged in water seepage testing work from drowning, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, including the following precautionary measures:

- installing protective grating or strainers at drainage openings to prevent accidental contact, hence eliminating the risk due to suction forces;
- providing appropriate mechanical tools or suitable devices for removing obstructions or covers from drainage openings, and strictly prohibiting workers from reaching into them with bare hands;
- prohibiting workers from entering or remaining in the area where dyed water is being drained;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for water seepage testing work, taking into account the nature of the work and the work environment, with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for water seepage testing work; and



- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹ :

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

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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