



## **Work Safety Alert** **Struck by Collapsed Portal**

- 1. Date of Accident:** July 2025
- 2. Place of Accident:** A construction site
- 3. Summary:**

While a worker was dismantling the I-beam of a metal portal by flame cutting operation, the metal portal suddenly collapsed. The worker fell together with the collapsing portal but was caught by his safety harness, which was attached to a power-operated mobile elevating work platform (“MEWP”) on which he was working. However, another worker directing the traffic on the ground nearby was fatally struck by the collapsing metal portal.

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

To prevent any workers engaged in metal portal dismantling work from being struck by any structure or parts thereof during dismantling work, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, including the following precautionary measures:

- providing substantive support to the temporary structure to be dismantled as necessary to prevent any part of the structure from accidental detaching, collapsing or failure during the work;
- ensuring that no workers work, pass or stay underneath or near the temporary structure being dismantled;
- fencing off the area for the dismantling work as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and control measures implemented to prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced-off area;



- prohibiting workers from leaving an MEWP's platform while elevated unless it has been planned and allowed to do so after duly assessing and addressing all foreseeable hazards;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the dismantling work, taking into account the construction/ configuration, size, shape, centre of gravity of the structure to be dismantled, the sequence of work, the work environment and with due regard to the results of risk assessments, legislation and guidelines to eradicate the risks to workers;
- ensuring the dismantling work is carried out by workers with necessary safety information, instruction and training under the immediate supervision of a competent supervisor who should have sufficient technical knowledge and be capable of reading and understanding construction drawings, risk assessment reports and method statements; and
- setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for metal portal dismantling work.

## 5. Reference<sup>1</sup>:

- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view documents



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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.