



Work Safety Alert **Fallen from a Collapsed Bamboo Scaffold Under Erection**

1. **Date of Accident :** April 2022
2. **Place of Accident :** A two-storey detached house
3. **Summary :**

While two scaffolders were erecting a bamboo scaffold at the external wall of a two-storey detached house, the scaffold suddenly collapsed which caused the two workers to fall onto the ground together with the scaffold. As a result, one worker sustained fatal injury while the other was injured.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, contractors/ employers engaged in erection/ dismantling/ alteration of scaffolds should:

- appoint a professional engineer/ competent person with adequate and relevant qualifications, competence and experience to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, relevant code of practice and guidelines;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/ dismantled/ altered strictly in accordance with the design drawings, specifications and method statement; and is erected/ dismantled/ altered strictly following the safe work methods, procedures and safety measures;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/ dismantled/ altered by trained



workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;

- ensure that the scaffold should be effectively braced to ensure stability of the whole structure and the bracings should extend from the base to the top of the scaffold;
- where a bamboo scaffold having a height of 7 meters or below is to be erected, among others, ensure that:
 - bamboo rakers should be provided and connected from the ground to the third lift or fourth lift of the scaffold;
 - the angle of the rakers from ground should approximately be equal to 60° and each raker should be tied to both the standard and the transom of the scaffold;
 - there should be one such raker provided for every 7m apart horizontally or less on the scaffold, and two such rakers should be provided near the two ends along the width of the scaffold in exceptional case when the scaffold is less than 7m in width;
 - the rakers should be inserted into the ground for not less than 500mm or be securely fixed in position by suitable means to prevent any movement of the rakers.
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work for the workers/ employees;
- provide every worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety harness that is attached continuously 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 concerned throughout the work;
- provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing



of the same by the workers/ employees throughout the work;

- provide all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

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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