



## **Work Safety Alert**

### **Pressed by Collapsed U-channels**

- 1. Date of Accident :** December 2022
- 2. Place of Accident :** A scrap metal yard
- 3. Summary :**

A lorry-mounted crane overturned in a scrap metal yard during a lifting operation. Its telescopic boom struck on a stack of U-channels stored there, causing two U-channels collapsed and struck the yard director standing nearby to death.

#### **4. Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Proprietors/ Employers:**

To ensure the lifting operation by a mobile crane such as a lorry-mounted crane is safe, the crane owner/ proprietor/ employer should provide and maintain safe plant and a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- ensuring that the mobile crane has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before it is put into operation;
- ensuring that the mobile crane is checked and maintained regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure it is in good construction and safe for operation;
- ensuring that the mobile crane is not used unless it is fitted with an automatic safe load indicator that functions properly and that the crane will not be used beyond its safe working load;
- appointing a competent person to conduct a task-specific risk assessment to identify all potential hazards associated with the lifting operation, taking into account all relevant factors including the size and weight of



the loads, ground conditions and the working environment in the vicinity;

- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the risk assessment results, including the selection of a suitable crane/ lifting gears, proper siting of the crane as well as the competency of the workers involved;
- appointing a competent lifting supervisor for overall control of the lifting operation;
- observing manufacturer's recommendations and instructions to ensure the stability of the mobile crane, such as levelling, extension of outriggers and restricting lifting operation within the specified working ranges of the jib;
- siting the mobile crane on solid ground and using suitable mat or timber blocking with area of at least three times of the outrigger's float for complete and secure support of the float;
- exercising stringent control measures to ensure proper setup of outriggers;
- fencing off the operating zone of the mobile crane as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and adopting control measures to prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced-off area;
- ensuring that the mobile crane is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of the crane;
- providing crane operators and workers/ employees involved in the lifting operation with adequate information, instruction and training in respect of the safe system of work for crane operations; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)<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)
- [吊運工作意外個案集](#)<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.

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