



Work Safety Alert Struck to Death by a Bundle of Timbers

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2024

2. **Place of Accident :** A warehouse

3. **Summary :**

A worker was struck to death when a bundle of timbers fell from the trailer of a truck during an unloading operation.

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

To ensure the safety of workers engaged in loading/ unloading operation, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with loading/ unloading operation, taking into account the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity, packing arrangement of loads and the work environment, with particular attention paid to any movement/ displacement of the loads to be handled and loads nearby;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for loading/ unloading operation with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation and guidelines to minimise the risks of workers;
- stacking, stabilizing and handling the loads properly, particularly loose loads packed in bundles, to prevent them from displacement in the course of loading/ unloading operation;
- appointing a competent supervisor to oversee the loading/ unloading operation including assessing the number of lashings to be removed at a



time, taking into account the integrity and stability of the loads and loads nearby;

- ensuring that the machinery used for loading/ unloading operation is only operated by an authorised person who has adequately trained and is competent by reasons of substantial training and practical experience;
- demarcating and properly barricading a zone for loading/ unloading operation and practicing strict access control measures with suitable warning notices posted in the vicinity to prohibit unauthorised entry into the zone when loading/ unloading operation is in progress;
- providing all workers concerned with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)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.

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