



Work Safety Alert
Trapped and Entangled by the Revolving Spiral Conveyor of
a Plastic Crushing Machine

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2022
2. **Place of Accident :** A Plastic Recycling Yard
3. **Summary :**

A female worker while handling plastic pieces at a plastic crushing machine was trapped and entangled to death by an exposed revolving spiral conveyor of the machine.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by any dangerous/ moving parts of machinery, such as a revolving spiral conveyor, during operation, inspection, maintenance or repair of the machinery, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the work environment, the nature of work, the size of the work pieces, the machinery to be used and its configuration;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant guidelines;
- providing effective guarding to all dangerous parts and/or fencing off danger zones where moving parts are exposed with suitable barriers in order to avoid any persons being endangered by any dangerous/ moving parts of the machinery;



- where a danger zone is demarcated, exercising strict access control and displaying suitable warning notices at prominent positions to restrict unauthorised access into the danger zone;
- where temporary removal of the guarding/ barriers from the dangerous parts/ exposed moving parts is required or access to the danger zone cannot be avoided during inspection, maintenance or repair of the machinery, implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that access to the dangerous/ exposed moving parts or danger zone would only be permitted after appropriate safety measures have been adopted, including switching off the power supply of the machinery and locking it with suitable warning notices displayed;
- ensuring that the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair of the machinery are carried out by persons who are competent by virtue of training and practical experience;
- taking all necessary steps to ensure effective communication among all persons involved in the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with necessary safety information, instruction and training and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and 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 Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Handbook on Guarding and Operation of Machinery¹](#)

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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