



Work Safety Alert Struck to Death by Falling Objects

1. **Date of Accident :** December 2021
2. **Place of Accident :** A demolition site
3. **Summary :**

A male worker while dismantling a metal structure on a demolition site was struck to death by concrete debris fallen from an adjoining demolition site.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck by any falling objects on a construction site, the contractors/ employers should

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work, the work environment, and where construction activity is being carried out on an adjoining site or in close vicinity, the nature of such work activity (e.g. demolition) and the work progress, particularly the hazards of falling objects from the adjoining site (e.g. buildings under demolition);
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regards to the results of risk assessments, and follow the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- where there is construction activity being conducted on an adjoining site that may cause danger to the workers, make necessary work arrangement amid the two construction sites;
- ensure that sufficient and effective safety features such as hoardings, covered walkways, catch platforms, catch-fans, etc. are erected prior to any demolition operation with due consideration to the safety and



convenience of traffic, passers-by, users of adjacent buildings and all workmen engaged in the demolition work, and the features should be properly maintained in good conditions until the completion of the demolition work;

- ensure that the specifications and construction details of hoardings, covered walkways, catch platforms, catch-fans and all other necessary precautionary measures conform to the relevant codes of practice and guidelines; and suit the site conditions and the requirements of the selected demolition method;
- ensure that no loose materials are placed or stacked on or near the floor edge which they are liable to fall;
- prohibit throwing, tipping or shooting down the debris waste and other materials from a height where they are liable to cause injury to any person or damage to property on or near the site;
- display warning notices at prominent locations to alert workers/ employees to the hazards of falling objects;
- strictly prohibit any workers/ employees from entering the hazardous areas where hazards of falling objects are foreseeable by, for example, cordoning or fencing off the areas;
- assign a competent and experienced site supervisor to supervise the overall demolition work to ensure that all risks are effectively managed;
- 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 worker/ employee 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 :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Demolition of Buildings 2004](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on the Selection, Use and Maintenance of Safety Helmets](#)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.

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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