



Work Safety Alert

Struck by a Fallen Load

- 1. Date of Accident :** November 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A foundation site
- 3. Summary :**

A worker was struck to death by a fallen load which was being lifted and moved by a crawler-mounted crane.

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

To safeguard any person from being struck by any falling object during a lifting operation by a mobile crane, the crane owner/ contractor/ employer 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 lifting operation, particularly taking into account the size, shape and weight of the loads, the slinging/rigging method and the working environment;
- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the risk assessment's results, including the selection of a suitable crane/ lifting gear as well as the competence of the workers involved;
- appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively reduced/managed;
- taking care of the safety of all workers involved and other persons who may be affected by the lifting operation, including the proper fencing off of all lifting zones with suitable warning notices as far as reasonably practicable;



- where it is not reasonably practicable to fence off the lifting zones, taking effective measures, such as appointment of sufficient watch-out personnel, to ensure that no unauthorised entry into the zones;
- ensuring that the workers who direct, rig and handle the loads have all been properly trained in the principles of slinging and rigging, and are capable of selecting lifting gear as well as slinging/rigging method suitable for the loads to be lifted; and that the load is safely secured and without slipping and displacement during the lifting operation;
- 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 putting in use for the lifting operation;
- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used for lifting is tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner, and a valid certificate in the approved form in which the competent examiner has made a statement to the effect that it is in safe working order has been obtained;
- ensuring that the mobile crane is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of the crane; and that a signaller is appointed where the crane operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the load and its vicinity;
- providing each worker/ employee who is at work on the site with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by each of them while remaining on the site;
- providing crane operator and workers/ employees involved in the lifting operation with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes¹](#)

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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