



Work Safety Alert **Struck to Death by Fallen Glass Panels**

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** Car park of a commercial building
3. **Summary :**

A stack of glass panels fell while being lifted and unloaded from a lorry-mounted crane, and struck a warehouse keeper standing nearby to death.

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

To safeguard any person from being struck by any falling objects 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 plant and slinging/rigging method to be used in the lifting operation, and the work environment;
- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the results of the risk assessment, including the selection, use and maintenance of the lifting appliances and gear as well as the competency 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;
- ensuring that every part of any load to be raised or lowered by the lifting appliance is securely suspended or supported, and adequately secured so as to prevent danger arising to persons or property as a result of the



slipping or displacement of any part of the load;

- ensuring that each chain, rope and lifting gear (including webbing slings) is inspected before use on each occasion by a competent person such that it is free from any abnormal wear and tear, visual cracks, elongation or slackening;
- 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 had made a statement to the effect that it is in safe working order has been obtained;
- ensuring that the chain, rope or lifting gear in use has clearly and legibly marked on it its safe working load, and is not loaded beyond its safe working load during use;
- prohibiting any unauthorized entry into the lifting zone, including the proper fencing off of the zones with the display of 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 there is no unauthorized 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;
- 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;
- providing the crane operator and all workers/ employees involved in the lifting operation with necessary 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 that 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 Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)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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