



## Work Safety Alert

### Suspected Electric Shock while Conducting Pipe Cutting Work

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A shop under renovation

### 3. **Summary :**

A worker while operating a portable electric grinder on a metal scaffold to dismantle the piping fixed at the ceiling of a shop unit under renovation was suspected to have received an electric shock and fell onto the ground for about 3 metres. He passed away a few days later.

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

To prevent electrical and fall-from-height hazards at work, contractors/ employers undertaking any work-above-ground involving the use of portable electrical apparatus 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 and the work environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and following the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- ensure that the portable electrical apparatus is well designed and constructed, e.g. being of double-insulated design or properly earthed;
- check the portable electrical apparatus before use and ensure that any damaged or faulty parts of the apparatus are repaired or replaced immediately;



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- ensure that the electrical circuits to which the portable electrical apparatus is connected are protected by suitable and adequate fuse, circuit breaker, residual current device for earth leakage protection, etc.;
- ensure that all electrical wires and connections are effectively protected, insulated and safeguarded;
- provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms or other suitable means of support by workers/ employees who are required to work-above-ground;
- ensure that every working platform is provided with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards and that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the working platform is not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450mm and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier erected on the platform is not less than 200mm;
- ensure that every working platform is closely boarded or planked; and every board or plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
- ensure that every working platform is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before taken into use for the first time, and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
- 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 that all safety measures are strictly followed.



## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Basic Electrical Safety Measures in the Workplace](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Work Safety - Electrical Safety and You](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### 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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document