



Work Safety Alert

Trapped between a Refuse Container Tractor and a Refuse Tipper

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2017
2. **Place of Accident :** A landfill area
3. **Summary :**

A worker while assisting in refuse dumping work at a landfill area was trapped to death between a reversing refuse container tractor and a refuse tipper.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered during refuse dumping operation involving mobile vehicles, 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 refuse dumping work including the use of vehicles (e.g. refuse container tractors) and plant (e.g. refuse tippers), taking into account the working environment, nature of work, travelling routes of the vehicles and operation of the plant;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the refuse dumping work, taking into consideration of the risk assessment results;
- demarcating an operating zone for the refuse dumping work and exercising strict access control;



- displaying suitable warning notices at prominent positions to prohibit access into the zone especially when vehicles are in motion;
- with regard to unloading of refuse containers at refuse tippers in particular, exercising all necessary control measures to ensure that nobody remains on the platforms of the refuse tippers during unloading;
- ensuring that the reverse warning system of the vehicle which will give alarm when the vehicle is in a reversing mode is properly maintained and functions properly at all times;
- engaging a signaller to give effective signals to the driver of a reversing vehicle who does not have a clear and unrestricted rear view, particularly when the vehicle is reversing to the platform of a refuse tipper;
- ensuring the provision of an effective communication system to all personnel involved in the refuse dumping work for effective coordination;
- ensuring that every place of work is adequately and suitably lit to the extent necessary to enable everybody who is involved in the refuse dumping work has a clear view of the workplace, particularly the platform of a refuse tipper;
- providing all workers/ employees who perform work at the workplace with reflective jackets of high visibility and ensuring their proper use of the equipment;
- ensuring that refuse dumping work is carried out by persons who are competent by virtue of training and practical experience;
- providing necessary safety information, instruction and training to all workers/ employees concerned 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 the above 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

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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