



## Work Safety Alert

### Trapped by a Lift Car

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A public housing estate

### 3. **Summary :**

A worker while conducting lift maintenance work at an upper floor of a residential building was trapped between the top of an ascending lift car and the upper part of the lift door frame. He sustained serious injuries and passed away subsequently.

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

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in any lift maintenance work, the contractors/ 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 lift maintenance work, taking into account the nature of work to be carried out, the work locations and the possible movement of the lift car;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the lift maintenance work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and the relevant codes of practice, industry guidelines, recognized international standards and lift manufacturer's specifications/ instructions;
- implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that all hazards associated with the lift maintenance work are eliminated before allowing any worker/ employee to enter or make access to the lift shaft



to conduct the lift maintenance work. Among others, the following safety precautions should be taken to prevent any unintended lift car movement:

- the car top control station and all safety devices of the lift car, including all interlocking devices, the braking system, the emergency stop switches and the manual control mode switches should be suitably tested for their effectiveness and proper functioning;
- if any person needs to conduct the maintenance work on the top of the lift car, the car stopping device located at the car top should be depressed before the commencement of any work;
- a car top stopping device should be positioned within 1 metre of the landing threshold and capable of being operated from the landing, and the normal lift control circuit should be positively isolated before any worker attempts to gain access to the car top from the landing;
- warning notices should be displayed at both the lift shaft entrance and the lift machine room indicating that lift maintenance work is in progress;
- adequate and appropriate communication means/ equipment such as mobile phones or walkie-talkies should be provided to all parties involved in the lift work to maintain effective communication;
- ensuring that the lift maintenance work is conducted safely under the immediate supervision of a person who is competent by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to the relevant work;
- ensuring that only competent workers/ employees possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience are employed to carry out the lift work;
- providing all workers/ employees, supervisors and related personnel involved in the lift work with necessary safety information, instruction and training;



- ensuring that workers/ employees, supervisors and related personnel involved in the lift work are conversant with the safe work procedures and safety measures, and fully understand their roles and responsibilities; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

## 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>
- [Code of Practice for Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents in Lift Installation, Maintenance and Repairing Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works : Volume 3 - Throughout the Occupation Stage of Building by the Construction Industry Council](#)<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.

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