



Work Safety Alert Fall from a Crawler-mounted Crane under Repair

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2016

2. **Place of Accident :** A heavy plant depot

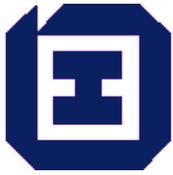
3. **Summary :**

An electrician while conducting electrical repair work to a crawler-mounted crane was suspected to have fallen from the crane to the ground. He sustained serious head injuries and passed away on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height while conducting plant maintenance or repair work, the proprietors/ employers concerned should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the work activities, particularly those involving work-above-ground, taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments and the manufacturer's instruction manuals;
- provide suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from the plant under maintenance or repair;
- where the plant under maintenance or repair is fitted with dedicated platforms, ensure that the designated accessories such as guard-rails



and toe-boards are properly and securely fixed at the platforms in accordance with the manufacturer's/ supplier's recommendations or specifications;

- conduct visual check and other inspections as necessary to every dedicated platform in accordance with the plant manufacturer's/ supplier's instructions or safety checklist or other equivalent safety checklist to ensure that the platforms are in good condition and free from damage before use;
- where there is no dedicated platform equipped to the plant, provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms or other safe means of support such as mobile working platforms by workers who are required to work-above-ground;
- ensure that every working platform is closely boarded or planked and provided with effective guard-rails and toe-boards at all edges, and every board or plank is rest securely and evenly on its support;
- where the erection of guard-rails and toe-boards to the dedicated platforms of the plant or the provision of suitable working platforms are not reasonably practicable, provide every worker/ employee engaged in such work with a suitable safety harness which should be continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage system throughout the work;
- take all necessary steps to ensure the proper use of the fall arresting systems by the workers/ employees concerned;
- provide each worker/ employee employed at the workplace with a suitable safety helmet with a chin strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee;
- provide all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents Related to Work-at-Height](#)¹
- [Guidelines on Work-above-ground Safety by the Construction Industry Council](#)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.

¹ Click to view document