



Work Safety Alert Crushed to Death by Toppled Aluminum Panels

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A building site
3. **Summary :**

While a gang of workers was unpacking a pile of aluminum panels which were placed in upright position, the panels toppled and crushed one of the workers to death.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in material storage and handling 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 work, taking into account the size, weight, shape and stability of the materials being handled, the working environment, the selection of the storage location, the transportation route, the workforce required and the necessary equipment for the material handling work;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments with the consideration of the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;
- ensuring that the materials are stored, stacked or handled on a flat, level and rigid surface;
- ensuring that the materials are stored or stacked in a safe manner, or properly supported to prevent toppling;
- as the case may be, arranging sufficient number of workers and using



suitable mechanical aids where necessary, such as cranes or forklift trucks of sufficient capacity to ensure safe conduct of the work throughout the time;

- ensuring that the materials are properly secured and stabilised to prevent them from overturning or displacing in the course of work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, 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 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
- [A Guide to Part VII of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulation \(Manual Handling Operations\)](#)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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