



Work Safety Alert **Struck to Death by a Toppled Wooden Crate**

1. Date of Accident : June 2019

2. Place of Accident : In a warehouse

3. Summary :

A male worker while handling a wooden crate placed on two dollies alone was struck to death by the wooden crate which suddenly toppled over him.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in material handling work, 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 work, taking into account the size, weight, shape and stability of the materials being handled, the working environment, the workforce 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;
- as the case may be, arranging sufficient number of workers and using, where necessary, suitable mechanical aids such as forklift trucks of sufficient capacity to ensure safe conduct of the work;
- 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.

¹ Click to view document