



## **Work Safety Alert** **Fall from a Retaining Wall**

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2020
2. **Place of Accident :** A slope maintenance site
3. **Summary :**

A worker while carrying out slope maintenance work on the top of a retaining wall of a slope fell for about 3 metres onto the ground and passed away on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in any work at or near dangerous places with unprotected edges such as retaining walls from falling from height, contractors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment, particularly those dangerous places where workers/ employees will work and are liable to fall;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers/ employees, such as falling hazard;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- safeguard all unprotected edges over which persons are liable to fall by suitable guard-rails;



- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the unprotected edges is not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450mm and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier is not less than 200mm;
- where the provision of guard-rails to prevent fall from unprotected edges is impracticable and working at such dangerous places cannot be avoided, set up an effective fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensure the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with the lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- 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 that all safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)<sup>1</sup>

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



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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.

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