



Work Safety Alert **Pressed to Death by a Toppled Metal Hoarding**

1. **Date of Accident :** December 2020
2. **Place of Accident :** A construction site
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was using a flame cutting tool to dismantle the metal hoarding of a construction site, part of the hoarding under dismantling suddenly toppled onto him and a co-worker who assisted him nearby. As a result, the worker was pressed to death and the co-worker sustained serious injuries.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck by any structures or parts thereof being dismantled on a construction site, 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 dismantling work, taking into account the nature of work, the work environment and the structural condition of the structure(s) to be dismantled, particularly the hazard of collapse of the structure or parts thereof being dismantled;
- formulating 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;
- providing substantive support to the structure to be dismantled and its adjoining structures as necessary to prevent any part of the structure or its adjoining structures from accidental detaching, collapsing or failure during the work;



- fencing off the area for the work as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and adopting control measures to prevent any unauthorized entry into the fenced-off area;
- ensuring that no workers/ employees work, pass or stay underneath the structure and any parts thereof being dismantled;
- ensuring the work is carried out by workmen with adequate training and experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person who should have sufficient technical knowledge and able to read and understand the drawings, risk assessment report and method statement of the work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant 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

¹ Click to view document



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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.