



Work Safety Alert **Struck to Death by a Fallen Metal I-beam**

1. **Date of Accident** : July 2021
2. **Place of Accident** : A construction site
3. **Summary :**

A worker while using a flame cutting tool to dismantle the sheet pile shoring of a trench excavation was struck to death by a collapsed metal I-beam which was being cut by another worker in the vicinity.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Proprietors :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck by any structures or parts thereof being dismantled on a construction site, the contractors/ proprietors 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 nature/ sequence of work, the work environment and the proximal work activities, particularly the hazard of falling objects;
- 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;
- ensuring that no workers/ employees work, pass or stay underneath the structures and any parts thereof being dismantled;
- fencing off the area for the dismantling 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;



- 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;
- where gas welding and flame cutting work is to be conducted, ensuring that the work is only performed by a person who holds a valid certificate for the work;
- 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
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Gas Welding and Flame Cutting\) Regulation](#)¹

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