



Work Safety Alert Struck by a Fallen Solar Panel

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2021
2. **Place of Accident :** A two-storey house under renovation
3. **Summary :**

While a solar panel was being lowered manually by means of a rope from 2/F of a two-storey house to the ground floor, the panel suddenly slipped off, rebounded upon hitting the ground and struck against a worker nearby. The worker sustained serious head injury and passed away ten days later in the hospital.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck by any falling object during a lifting operation, the contractor/ employer responsible for the work should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the lifting operation, taking into account the size, shape and weight of the loads, the rigging method suitable for the loads to be lifted and the working environment, particularly the hazard of falling objects;
- formulate a lifting plan with due consideration to the risk assessment's results, including the selection and use of a suitable lifting appliance/ lifting gear as well as the competence of the workers/ employees involved;
- where lifting appliance is involved in the operation, appoint a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively managed;
- ensure that the load is properly secured to prevent unintended



movement/ displacement in the course of operations;

- ensure the safety of all workers/ employees involved and other persons who may be affected by the lifting operation, including the proper fencing off of all lifting zones with suitable warning notices displayed as far as reasonably practicable;
- where it is not reasonably practicable to fence off the lifting zones, take effective measures, such as appointment of sufficient watch-out personnel, to ensure that no unauthorised entry into the zones;
- 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 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 Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulation](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
勞工處
Labour Department



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.