



Work Safety Alert Struck to Death by a Metal Strut

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

While a gang of workers was carrying out metal strut installation work in a trench, a strut being suspended by a crawler crane and aligned by chain blocks suddenly slipped and hit against a worker who assisted in the work. The worker sustained serious injury and passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in structure installation work from being struck by any structures or parts thereof being lifted, lowered and/or suspended by lifting appliances in the course of work, 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 work, taking into account the size, shape, weight and centre of gravity of the structures or parts thereof to be installed; the lifting appliances and slinging/rigging methods to be used in the lifting operation; and the work environment, with particular attention paid to the possible movement of the structures or parts thereof being installed;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the installation work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines;
- fencing off the area for the installation 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 the structures and any parts thereof being installed are properly and securely supported and/or suspended to prevent any unintended movement;
- 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
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)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