



## Work Safety Alert Struck by Displaced Panels

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

A pile of panels while being unloaded by a lorry-mounted crane displaced and struck against a worker who assisted in the lifting operation on the crane compartment. The worker subsequently fell onto the ground and passed away on the same day.

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

To safeguard any workers/ employees from being endangered by any loads being raised or lowered by a crane such as a lorry-mounted crane, the crane owner/ contractor/ employer responsible for the work 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 lifting operation, taking into account the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity and packing arrangement of the loads and the work environment, with particular attention paid to any unintended movement/ displacement of the loads being lifted;
- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the risk assessment's results, including the selection of suitable lifting appliances/ lifting gears, the slinging/ rigging method, the competency of the personnel involved; the places where the workers/ employees assisting in the lifting operation work or stay; and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation, codes of practice and guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers/ employees;



- ensuring that the crane has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before putting into use;
- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used for lifting is tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner, and a valid certificate in the approved form in which the competent examiner has made a statement to the effect that it is in safe working order has been obtained;
- ensuring that the crane is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of the crane; and that a signaller is appointed where the crane operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the loads and its vicinity;
- appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation, including rigging/ unrigging of loads, to ensure that all risks are effectively managed;
- ensuring that all the workers/ employees who direct, rig/ unrig and handle the loads have been properly trained in the principles of slinging and rigging, and are capable of using slinging/ rigging methods suitable for the loads to be lifted and unloaded;
- ensuring that the loads are safely secured to prevent slipping and displacement during the lifting operation;
- providing designed lifting points for specific loads as far as reasonably practicable;
- ensuring the balance of the loads throughout the lifting process by duly assessing the position of the centre of gravity of each load and properly positioning the supporting hook directly above it;
- providing a tag line or control rope for control of any undue swing or rotation of the loads where necessary;



- ensuring that no workers/ employees work or stay underneath the materials being lifted;
- ensuring 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, taking effective measures, such as appointment of sufficient watch-out personnel, to ensure that no unauthorised entry into the zones;
- ensuring that no workers/ employees work or stay on the crane compartment or on top of the materials stacked thereon and taking adequate safety precautions such as providing a suitable working platform or step platform for work-above-ground;
- if working on the crane compartment is unavoidable, ensuring that adequate safety precautions have been taken to prevent workers/ employees from falling from height, such as providing each worker/ employee with and ensuring the use of an effective fall arresting system;
- providing each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with chin strap and ensuring the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and 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<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety<sup>1</sup>](#)

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### **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.

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