



Work Safety Alert **Struck by Fallen Bamboo Members and Fell from Height**

1. **Date of Accident :** May 2020
2. **Place of Accident :** A building renovation site
3. **Summary :**

A worker while staying at the external wall of a building to assist in the lifting of two bags of bamboo members for bamboo scaffold erection work, was struck by the falling bags as the lifting wire rope suddenly broke. He fell onto a bamboo tier at the lower level of the scaffold and sustained fatal injury.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in erection of bamboo scaffold with the use of lifting appliances, the contractors/ employers 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 work, taking into consideration of the construction and capacity of the lifting appliances, the weight of the loads, the nature of work and the work environment, particularly the hazards of falling objects and persons falling from height;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, including the selection of suitable lifting appliances, the slinging/ rigging method, the competency of the personnel involved; and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation, codes of practice and guidelines;



- ensuring that the lifting appliances and every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used for lifting has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person prior to operation;
- ensuring that no workers/ employees work or stay underneath the materials being lifted;
- taking care of the safety of all workers 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;
- appointing a competent lifting supervisor for overseeing the lifting operations;
- ensuring that scaffolds are erected by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;
- providing every worker/ employee engaged in the erection of scaffolds with a suitable safety harness that is attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system, and ensuring the proper use of them by the workers/ employees concerned;
- 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 necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure 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 Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

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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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