



Work Safety Alert **Struck by Fallen Metal Beam and Fell from Height**

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

While a metal beam was being installed vertically atop another beam in an upright position at the topmost floor of a building under construction, the upper beam somehow displaced and fell down, striking against a bamboo scaffold being erected below at the external wall of the building and causing a scaffolder to plunge to his death together with the beam and the broken scaffold.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by any structure or parts thereof falling in the course of installation, 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 the work, taking into account the nature of work, the work location, the work environment and the work processes in the proximity, particularly the possibility of displacement of the structure being installed and 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 relevant safety legislation, codes of practice and safety guidelines to minimize the risks exposed to the workers/ employees;



- appointing a professional engineer with adequate qualifications, competence and experience to design the structure that is in conformity with established standards, and of sufficient load bearing capacity and stability;
- ensuring that the structure is installed strictly in accordance with the design drawings, specification and method statement; and is erected/ altered/ dismantled strictly following the safe work methods, procedures and safety measures;
- ensuring that the structure being installed is properly and securely supported and/ or suspended to prevent any unintended displacement;
- ensuring that the structure is erected/ altered/ dismantled by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person who should have sufficient technical knowledge and management skills, and be able to read and understand the design drawings, specification and method statement of the work;
- avoiding to carry out any work underneath the structure being erected/ altered/ dismantled and fencing off the affected area of the structure 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;
- where work underneath the structure being erected/ altered/ dismantled cannot be avoided, taking precautions as are necessary such as providing suitable shelters to prevent workers from being struck by any falling objects and ensuring effective communication among respective teams of workers for evacuating the workplace in case of emergency;
- ensuring that all site personnel and workers involved are competent by virtue of their knowledge, skills and experience with regard to their respective duties;



- where bamboo scaffolding work is carried out underneath the structure being erected/ altered/ dismantled, among others,
 - ensuring that the 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 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
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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