



Work Safety Alert Struck by a Descending Material Hoist and Fell from Height

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A building site
3. **Summary :**

A worker while mounting nylon nets to enclose the hoistway of a material hoist at 2/F level was suspected to have been struck by the descended hoist, who then fell down to the bottom of the hoistway. He sustained serious injuries and passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in erection of hoistway enclosure and its associated work, the 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 work, taking into account the nature of work, the work locations, the work environment and the possible movement of the hoist;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;
- devising and implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that all hazards associated with the work are eliminated before commencement of work. Among others, the following safety precautions should be taken to prevent any unintended hoist movement:
 - ensuring that the work is well-planned and coordinated to avoid



incompatible activities being performed at the same time;

- ensuring that the hoist is not operated for any purposes before completion of the enclosure erection work;
- ensuring an effective communication among workers/ employees working at different locations is maintained through the provision of adequate and appropriate communication means/ equipment such as mobile phones or walkie-talkie;
- displaying warning notices at the control panel of the hoist and hoistway gates at different floors indicating that the enclosure erection work is in progress;
- avoiding workers/ employees performing work inside the hoistway or at any dangerous places where they are liable to fall by, for example, using specific hand tools or otherwise ensuring the work can safely be done from a safe place;
- providing and ensuring the proper use of suitable working platforms or other means of support for the work where necessary;
- if the use of suitable working platforms or other means of support is impracticable, providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensuring the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with the lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- ensuring that the enclosure erection is conducted safely under the immediate supervision of a person who is competent by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to the relevant work and only competent workers/ employees possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience are employed for 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 Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System¹](#)
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Use of Hoists under the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Safe Use of Material Hoist - Interlocking Device on Hoistway Gate¹](#)

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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