



## Work Safety Alert Knocked down by an Excavator

**1. Date of Accident :** December 2019

**2. Place of Accident :** A construction site

**3. Summary :**

A banksman while working on a construction site was knocked down and crushed to death by an excavator in operation nearby.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by a moving plant such as an excavator, 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 a task-specific risk assessment to identify all potential hazards associated with the operation of the plant, taking into account all relevant factors including the working environment, movement of the plant and other moving plant nearby as well as workers/ employees working in the vicinity;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the operation of the plant with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and safety guidelines;
- fencing off the operating zone of the plant 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 plant is only operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate where applicable and who is able to operate the plant safely by virtue of his experience and competence;
- ensuring that sufficient visibility of the surrounding is available from the operator's seat to enable safe operation of the plant, and where necessary, providing aids such as mirrors, CCTV and ultrasonic sensing devices, etc. to remedy inadequate direct view;
- whenever a banksman is assigned to give signal to the operator of the plant and other plant in the vicinity, ensuring that all plant operators would pay particular attention to the working position and movement of the banksman to avoid endangering him during the operation;
- providing personal protective equipment such as reflective vests or other devices for the banksman and other persons assisting in the operation such that they can easily be seen by the operators of the plant and other plant in the vicinity;
- ensuring that the plant has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before it is put into operation;
- ensuring effective communication among all plant operators and workers/ employees working in the vicinity;
- providing plant operators and workers/ employees involved with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures.



## 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 on Safe Use of Excavators<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites<sup>1</sup>](#)

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

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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.