

7 Fire hazards



During the flame cutting process, safety measures should be taken to prevent the outbreak of fire. Combustible or flammable materials should be removed from the working area. Suitable measures, such as covering the working platform by fire resistant materials, should be taken to prevent slag or sparks from reaching combustible materials or falling out of the working platform.

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8 Manual handling

Risk assessment should be conducted to identify the safety precautions to be adopted. For lifting heavy or bulky objects, mechanical aids or team lifting should be considered.



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Legislation

Under the general duties provisions in section 6A of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, an employer or proprietor responsible for the demolition of UBW shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of persons employed by him and shall provide a safe system of work. If the employer or proprietor contravenes any of the general duties provisions, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$500,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

Under the general duties provisions in section 6B of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, an employee shall co-operate with his employer and other persons in complying with the safety legislation and shall not do anything to endanger himself or other persons. If the employee contravenes any general duties provisions, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

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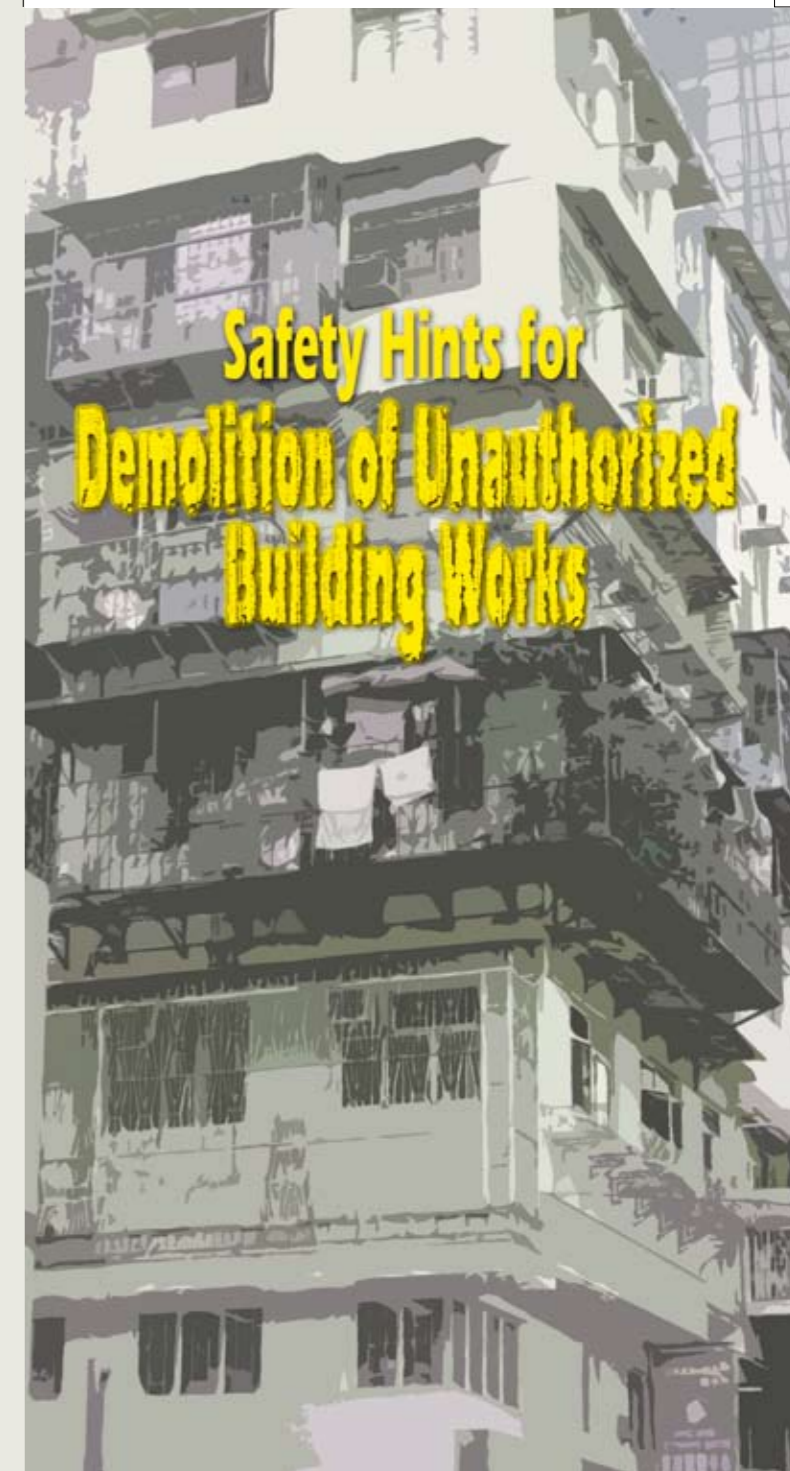
Information on the services offered by the Labour Department and on major labour legislation can also be found by visiting our Home Page on the Internet. Address of our Home Page is <http://www.labour.gov.hk>. Information on the services offered by the Occupational Safety & Health Council can be obtained through hotline 2739 9000.

Complaint

If you have any complaints about unsafe workplaces and practices, please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline on 2542 2172. All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Contractors responsible for demolition of Unauthorized Building Works (UBW) should provide and maintain safe systems of work to ensure the safety and health of the workers involved in the demolition work.

It shall be the duty of the employers and proprietors of such work to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of persons employed by them.

The safety precautions that should be taken include the following:

1 Risk assessment

Before the demolition of UBW begins, a risk assessment should be conducted to assess the condition of the UBW ; to find out any foreseeable hazards and to devise and adopt suitable safety measures.



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2 Working-at-height

Whenever the demolition of UBW has to be conducted at heights, suitable working platforms or scaffoldings should be erected. They should be designed by a professional engineer; erected, altered or demolished by trained workmen under the close supervision of a competent person. The competent person should also sign the Form 5 (scaffolding safety form).



3 Temporary support for UBW

Before the commencement of the demolition work, measures should be considered and taken to provide temporary support for the UBW to prevent accidental displacement, collapse or failure of such UBW during the course of work.

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4 Personal protective equipment

Workers working at heights should use a personal fall arresting system including a safety harness attached to suitable anchorage points throughout the course of work. An anchorage can be a fixed anchorage or an independent lifeline. While performing drilling, grinding, rock/concrete breaking or welding work, suitable personal protective equipment should be used.



5 Electrical safety

Suitable electrical hand tools and welding equipment should be used and be connected to power supply by means of proper plugs.



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6 Falling objects

Adequate precautions should be taken to prevent the falling of objects including hand tools, debris, etc. Working platforms/scaffoldings should be fitted with toe-boards, screen covers or catchfans, etc.



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