



## Work Safety Alert Trapped between a Mobile Crane and a Railing

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

A rigger was trapped to death between the rear part of a crawler-mounted mobile crane being slewed and a nearby metal railing.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck or trapped by a moving plant, such as a mobile crane having travelling or slewing motion, the contractors/ employers should:

- appoint 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 environment, movement of the plant as well as workers/ employees working in the vicinity;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the operation of the moving plant with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and safety guidelines;
- fence off the operating zone of the moving 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;
- ensure that the moving plant is only operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate where applicable and who is able to operate the moving plant safely by virtue of his experience and competence;



- ensure an unobstructed passageway, not less than 600 mm wide, is maintained between any part of the moving plant liable to move and any nearby installation/ fixture; and where it is not practicable to maintain such passageway, ensure that no person is allowed to get close to the moving plant when it is in use;
- display “Keep Clear” or other warning notices on the sides and rear of the moving plant;
- appoint and station a signaller to give effective signals to the operator of the moving plant where the operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of its vicinity;
- install reversing video device to provide the operator with rear-side views on a monitor in the driving cabinet for enhancing the safety of operation of the moving plant;
- provide personal protective equipment such as reflective vests or other devices to all persons assisting in the operation such that they can easily be seen by the operator of the moving plant;
- ensure effective communication among all persons involved in the operation throughout the operation;
- provide all workers/ employees concerned with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures related to the operation of the moving plant; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all of 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 for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes<sup>1</sup>](#)

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



## **Work Safety Alert** **Trapped by the Conveyor Belt of a Rock Crushing Plant**

**1. Date of Accident :** January 2020

**2. Place of Accident :** A fill bank

**3. Summary :**

While a gang of workers was clearing rock pieces jammed at a conveyor belt of a rock crushing plant in a fill bank, the conveyor belt was suddenly re-actuated which trapped one of the workers to death.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by any dangerous/ moving parts of machinery, such as a conveyor belt system, during operation, inspection, maintenance or repair, the 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 task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the work environment, the nature of work, the machinery configuration and the equipment/ tools to be used;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant guidelines;
- providing effective guarding to all dangerous parts and/or fencing off danger zones where moving parts are exposed with suitable barriers in order to avoid any persons being endangered by any dangerous/ moving parts of the machinery;



- where a danger zone is demarcated, exercising strict access control and displaying suitable warning notices at prominent positions to restrict unauthorised access into the danger zone;
- where temporary removal of the guarding/ barriers from the dangerous parts/ exposed moving parts is required or access to the danger zone cannot be avoided during inspection, maintenance or repair of the machinery, implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that access to the dangerous/ exposed moving parts or danger zone would only be permitted after appropriate safety measures have been adopted, including switching off the power supply of the machinery and locking it with suitable warning notices displayed;
- ensuring that the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair of the machinery are carried out by persons who are competent by virtue of training and practical experience;
- taking all necessary steps to ensure effective communication among all persons involved in the operation, inspection, maintenance or repair work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with 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 Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Handbook on Guarding and Operation of Machinery](#)<sup>1</sup>

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## Work Safety Alert

### Fall from a Metal A-Ladder

- 1. Date of Accident:** January 2020
- 2. Place of Accident:** A commercial building
- 3. Summary:**

A worker while riding on metal A-ladder to remove a de-energised cable from an overhead cable tray, fell about 2.2m from the ladder onto the ground. The worker sustained serious head injury and passed away two days later.

#### **4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers:**

To prevent any persons from falling from height when doing work-above-ground, the proprietors/ employers responsible for the work should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, and follow the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines;
- avoid using ladders for work-above-ground;
- provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms or elevating work platforms where appropriate for the work, which should comply with the following requirements:-



- with a width of not less than 400mm;
  - be closely boarded or planked;
  - be provided with guard-rails in that the height of the top guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 900mm and 1150mm while the height of the intermediate guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 450mm and 600mm;
  - be provided with toe-boards or other similar barriers with a height of not less than 200mm.
- ensure that every working platform is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
  - where the provision of working platform is not reasonably practicable, provide all workers/ employees involved with suitable safety harnesses and provide at the workplace where work-above-ground is to be undertaken suitable and secure anchor point(s), independent lifeline(s) or fall arresting system(s) for continuous attachment of the safety harnesses worn by the workers/ employees;
  - take steps to ensure the proper use of the safety harnesses, anchor points, independent lifelines and fall arresting systems by the workers/ employees throughout the work;
  - provide all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
  - establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.





## 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>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems<sup>1</sup>](#)

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