



**Work Safety Alert**  
**Trapped to Death between a Forklift Truck**  
**and an Power-operated Elevating Work Platform**

1. **Date of Accident** : May 2023
2. **Place of Accident** : A tunnel under construction
3. **Summary:**

While a worker was engaging in the preparation work for towing away a broken down power-operated elevating work platform (“PEWP”) on a construction site, the worker was trapped to death in-between the PEWP and a forklift truck for the towing operation.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered while engaging in removal of mechanical plant, such as PEWP, contractors/ proprietors/ 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 removal work, taking into account the type, size and weight of the mechanical plant, and the working environment/ condition;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the removal operation with due regard to the results of the risk assessments;
- selecting suitable equipment which is designed for the removal operation and it should be operated according to the manufacturer’s instructions;
- ensuring that the equipment is regularly inspected, tested and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions in order



to ensure that it is in safe working condition before use;

- ensuring that the removal operation is performed by trained and competent operators/ workmen and under the direct supervision of an engineer/ a person who is competent by virtue of his knowledge and practical experience;
- if a towing vehicle or similar equipment is used, the operator should not leave the operating cabin while the engine is running and ignition key is on the vehicle/equipment;
- ensuring adequate lighting is provided for the removal operation;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that 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>

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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.



職業安全及健康部  
**Occupational Safety and Health Branch**  
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**Labour Department**



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](#)