



Work Safety Alert Pressed to Death by Falling Equipment

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A cargo handling wharf
3. **Summary :**

When a piece of heavy cooking equipment was being unloaded from the tail lift of a lorry to the ground at a wharf, it suddenly toppled and fell from the tail lift. A worker assisting in the unloading operation near the tail lift on the ground was crushed to death by the falling equipment.

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

To ensure the occupational safety of workers engaged in loading/ unloading of loads, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with loading/ unloading of the loads, taking into account the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity, with particular attention paid to possible displacements of the loads;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for loading/ unloading of the loads with due regard to the results of risk assessment, including the selection of suitable mechanical aids and methods to support the loads to ensure their stability; and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation, guidelines and manufacturer's instruction to minimise the risks of workers;
- appointing a competent supervisor to oversee the loading/ unloading operation including stability of the loads, use of suitable mechanical aids for the operation, etc. to ensure that all risks are effectively eliminated or mitigated;



- ensuring that all workers who involve in the loading/ unloading operation have been properly trained and are capable of using the selected mechanical aids and methods to support the loads, and staying away from the danger zone;
- providing all workers concerned with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant 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](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

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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