



Work Safety Alert **Struck by Slewing Excavator**

1. Date of Accident: February 2025

2. Place of Accident: A foundation site

3. Summary:

While the upper structure of an excavator was slewing within an unfenced operation zone, its bucket struck a worker who had unhooked a metal cage being lifted by the excavator. The worker passed away three days later.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers from being endangered by excavators, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- demarcating and fencing off the operation zone of the plant as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and control measures adopted to prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced off area;
- ensuring that an unobstructed passageway, not less than 600 mm wide, is maintained between any part of the plant and any nearby object; and where it is not practicable to maintain such passageway, ensuring that no person is allowed to get close to the plant when it is in use/ operation;
- ensuring that there is adequate visibility of the surrounding from the operator's seat to enable safe operation of the plant, and, where necessary, providing aids such as mirrors, smart devices, and CCTV, etc. to improve visibility if direct view is inadequate;
- ensuring that excavator operators remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, and exercise extra caution throughout the operation to



prevent collisions with nearby workers, plant, structures and other objects for the safety of themselves and those in the operation zone;

- assigning a banksman to give signal to the operator if the plant needs to be operated in special circumstances such as in a congested work environment or close to nearby object. Attention should be drawn to the working position of the banksman to avoid danger by the movement of any plant operating in the vicinity;
- ensuring that every worker in the operation zone for the plant is wearing a high visibility or reflective vest;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the use of moving plant; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹:

- [Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

¹ Click to view documents



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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.