



Work Safety Alert **Struck to Death by Falling Metal Pipes**

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

A worker was struck to death by falling metal pipes while he was assisting in fastening of the metal pipes that had been loaded on the deck of a lorry at a wharf.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers engaged in fastening of metal pipes (the 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 rigging of the loads, taking into account the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity, rigging method, and packing and stacking arrangements for the loads, with particular attention paid to possible displacements of the loads;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for rigging of the loads with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation and guidelines to minimise the risks of workers;
- stacking, stabilising and handling the loads properly to prevent them from displacement in the course of rigging operation;
- appointing a competent supervisor to oversee the lifting operation including integrity and stability of the loads, rigging/ unrigging of loads, etc. to ensure that all risks are effectively eliminated or mitigated;



- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear is of good construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring that all workers who direct, rig/ unrig and handle the loads have been properly trained in rigging are capable of using rigging methods suitable for the loads and staying away from 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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