



Work Safety Alert Struck to Death by Falling Metal Boards

1. **Date of Accident :** May 2024

2. **Place of Accident :** A depot

3. **Summary :**

A bundle of metal boards loosened and fell while being lifted by a truck-mounted crane, striking a worker standing on the ground for the lifting operation. The worker passed away in hospital on the same day.

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

To safeguard any workers from being endangered by any loads being raised or lowered by a crane, the crane owners/ proprietors/ employers responsible for the work should provide and maintain a safe system of work which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct a task-specific risk assessment to identify all potential hazards associated with the lifting operation, taking into account the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity, the rigging method suitable for the loads to be lifted and the work environment, with particular attention paid to any movement/ displacement of the loads being lifted;
- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the risk assessment's results, including the selection of suitable lifting appliances/ lifting gear and rigging method; the competency of personnel involved; the places where workers assist in the lifting operation; and the requirements of relevant safety legislation, codes of practice and guidelines to minimise the risks;
- appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation, including rigging/ unrigging of loads, to ensure that all



risks are effectively eliminated or mitigated;

- ensuring that the safety of all workers involved and other workers who may be affected by the lifting operation, including demarcating and properly barricading a lifting zone and practicing strict access control measures with suitable warning notices posted in the vicinity to prohibit unauthorised entry into the zone when lifting operation is in progress;
- ensuring that no workers work or stay underneath the material being lifted;
- ensuring that loads are properly secured to prevent slipping and displacement during lifting operation;
- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used for lifting has been tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner, certifying the safe working order of the gear concerned;
- ensuring that all workers who direct, rig/ unrig and handle the loads have been properly trained in rigging, and are capable of using rigging methods suitable for the loads;
- 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
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)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.

¹ [Click to view document](#)