



Work Safety Alert Collapse of a Concrete Beam

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A building renovation site in Yau Ma Tei
3. **Summary :**

It is reported that while a worker was dismantling a metal gate, a concrete beam above suddenly collapsed and inflicted a fracture injury to his left arm.

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

To prevent collapse of structures in undertaking dismantling work, contractors/employers should:

- before the commencement of the dismantling work, appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments, which should include record drawings verification, and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the dismantling work;
- provide temporary support to prevent accidental displacement, collapse or failure of any structure;
- appoint a competent person to supervise the dismantling work;
- ensure that all persons are kept at a safe distance away from any structure associated with the dismantling work;
- ensure that places liable to be dangerous are clearly demarcated and fenced off and prohibit any person from entering the area without prior permission;



- display prominent warning notices to alert workers of the hazards arising from the dismantling work;
- provide the workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training; and
- implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure strict compliance with the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)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.

¹ Click to view the document