



## Work Safety Alert Struck by an Excavator

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A tunnel under construction in Yuen Long
3. **Summary :**

A worker was struck to his death by an excavator during mechanical scaling of the wall surface of the tunnel.

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

To prevent workers from being struck or trapped by mobile plant, contractors/employers undertaking tunneling works should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments with due regard to the mobile plant operation, the site layout and work environment;
- formulate and implement an effective safety management system which should include the following:
  - segregating workers from the operating zone of mobile plant by suitable barriers;
  - maintaining an unobstructed passageway of not less 600 mm wide between any part of the mobile plant and the tunnel surface;
  - exercising strict access control measures with suitable warning notices in place to avoid unauthorised man-entry into the operating zone of mobile plant;
  - eliminating reversing where possible, by adopting one way traffic system;



- stationing a signaler to give effective signals to plant operators who do not have a clear and unrestricted view of its vicinity;
  - installing suitable safety devices on the mobile plant, such as closed-circuit televisions to enhance the operator's views especially at the rear and audio/visual alarms for reversing motion to alert persons working nearby; and
  - ensuring that every worker in the working area is wearing a high visibility or reflective vest;
- provide workers with adequate information, training and instruction in respect of the safe system of work for operating mobile plant and traffic management measures; and
  - implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators<sup>1</sup>](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document



職業安全及健康部  
Occupational Safety and Health Branch  
勞工處  
Labour Department



### 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.