



Work Safety Alert A Fork-lift Truck Plunged into the Sea

1. **Date of Accident :** April 2014
2. **Place of Accident :** A container terminal
3. **Summary :**

A worker plunged to death together with a fork-lift truck into the sea while he was reversing it.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent a worker from falling into the sea when operating a moving vehicle near the quayside, the contractor/employer should ensure that:

- a competent person is appointed to conduct a task-specific risk assessment and formulate relevant safe working procedures with respect to the operation at quayside;
- the moving vehicle is properly maintained and in a safe operating condition;
- as far as practicable, suitable devices should be erected along the edges of the shore to protect workers or moving vehicles from falling into the sea;
- relevant safety training, information, instruction and supervision are provided to the workers concerned; and
- an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures and precautions is established and implemented.



5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities in the Container Handling and Storage Sector](#)¹
- [Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Yards](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks](#)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 document