



Work Safety Alert **Struck by Falling Object**

- 1. Date of Accident :** August 2014
- 2. Place of Accident :** A building construction site
- 3. Summary :**

A worker was suspected to have been struck to his death by a falling falsework component while working on the podium between two buildings.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent workers from being struck by any falling objects, contractors/employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments to identify the hazards of falling object on the site and formulate appropriate protective measures to eliminate or properly control the hazards;
- safeguard any floor edges or openings by suitable barriers, fencings, coverings or toe-boards so as to prevent any materials from falling over or through the edges or openings;
- ensure that no loose materials are placed or stacked near the floor edges or openings through which they are liable to fall;
- strictly prohibit any workers from entering the hazardous areas where hazards of falling objects are foreseeable by, for example, cordoning or fencing off the areas;



- display warning notices at prominent locations to alert workers of the hazards of falling objects;
- ensure that every worker on the site is wearing a suitable safety helmet;
- provide necessary safety training, information, instruction and supervision to the workers involved; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety precautions.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Brief Analysis of Site Accident Cases](#)¹
- [Safety Handbook for Construction Site Workers](#)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.

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