



A MOBILE CRANE OVERTURNED IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT TSIM SHA TSUI AND ITS JIB DAMAGED THE SHELTER OF AN ADJACENT BAR

On 14 September 2023, a mobile crane overturned in a construction site at Tsim Sha Tsui and its jib damaged the shelter of an adjacent bar, no person was injured. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Failure to operate and use the mobile crane in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
2. Operate the mobile crane on nonuniform, uneven or unsolid ground.
3. Failure to maintain a suitable jib angle while the mobile crane travelling with suspended loads.
4. Failure to conduct re-assessment to the working environment and working procedures after adverse weather.

Critical Control Measures

1. **Mobile Crane Operation:**
 - Reference should be made to the manufacturer's manual on the limitations and conditions, and operate or use the mobile crane properly.
 - Do not lift any loads with weight exceeding the safe working load and do not drag the loads on the ground.
2. **Mobile Crane Travelling:**
 - The travelling should be performed at creep speeds with the jib in line with the direction of travel, and with the slewing locks and/or swing brake engaged.
 - A suitable jib angle to maintain the stability of the crane should be determined before the travelling.
 - The ground to be traversed should be firm and level.
 - Mats or other suitable travelling surface should be laid where sinkage of the wheels or crawlers could occur in soft ground.
3. **Implementation of Permit-to-work System:**
 - Relevant qualified persons conduct thorough checking to ensure that the potential risks affecting the crane's stability are eliminated before each travelling.
4. **Emergency Preparedness for Adverse Weather:**
 - Before lifting operation starts, information on wind conditions should be obtained through weather forecast to ensure the wind speed limited specified by the manufacturer is not exceeded.
 - If the wind speed exceeds the limit set by the crane manufacturer, the crane must be stopped, the jib of mobile crane shall be lowered down, rest on strong support or in a place not affected by strong winds.
 - After adverse weather, risk assessment to the lifting and machinery operation should be conducted, to ensure that the working environment and working procedures are safe and suitable.



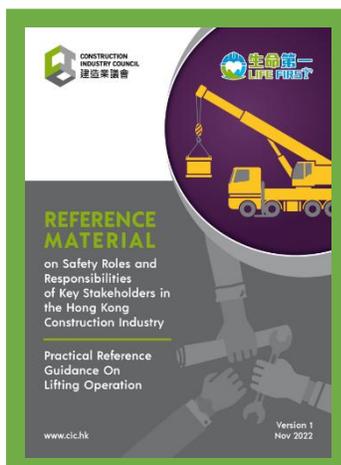


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

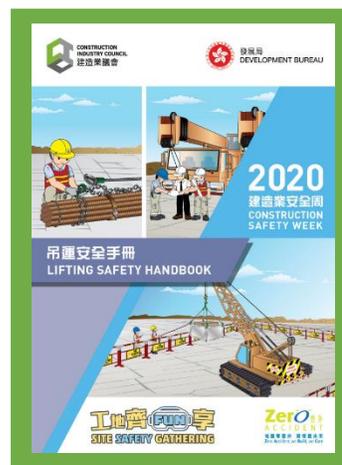
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the proximity hazards, space availability and suitability of the ground such as the allowance bearing capacity of the ground; consider and adopt the proper methods, and selection of appropriate crane.
- During the construction stage, develop safety plans and safe working procedures, brief all relevant staff about the plans and procedures, and clearly assign individual safety responsibilities.
- In case of adverse weather conditions before lifting operation, the work team shall decide whether to continue lifting operation according to the agreed emergency preparedness plan and the actual situation.
- Workers can identify potential risks on the crane's stability and report it to their supervisors and take action against it.

Reference information for sharing



Reference Material -
on Safety Roles and Responsibilities
of Key Stakeholders in the Hong
Kong Construction Industry
(Practical Reference Guidance On
Lifting Operation)



Lifting Safety Handbook



Poster - Lifting Safety



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