

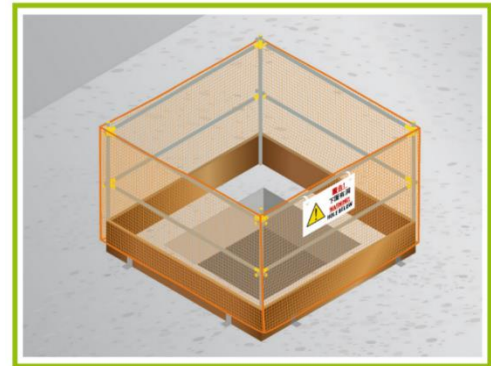


## A WORKER WAS INJURED BY FALLING INTO A HOLE IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT SAU MAU PING

On 24 October 2023, a worker fell into a hole while working in a construction site at Sau Mau Ping, the worker was injured and sent to the hospital. 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. Fall from the opening reserved for the works.
2. Fall from unprotected edge.
3. The materials used for covering the opening are not adequate in size and of sound construction.
4. Failure to effectively implement design for safety management, and eliminate or reduce the risks of working near the hole at the source.
5. Failure to regularly review risk assessment and control measures in response to the actual situation site conditions, works sequence or the affected activities, etc.



Provide guard-rails, toe-boards and warning signs at the opening

### Critical Control Measures

1. Adopt a design for safety approach, produce a work plan to eliminate or reduce risks at the source, e.g. by reducing the quantity of holes and the frequency of working near the holes.
2. The construction team shall develop a holistic plan with the locations and sizes of holes, details of the items installed through the hole, control measures used for each hole, the responsible persons and their contacts, etc. The plan should be reviewed regularly during the works to account for the changes made during operation.
3. Ensure the holes are securely covered and fenced off to prevent workers fall from height.
4. Display warning notices prominently on the hole covers / fencing to openings.
5. Adopt appropriate Smart Site Safety System (SSSS) to strengthen the safety management to reduce the risks, e.g. electronic lock and key system, and alert system for danger zone.
6. Provide workers with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.

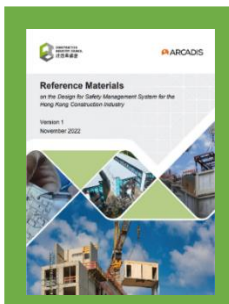


## SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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 or engineers should consider adopting a design for safety approach, to eliminate or reduce the quantity of holes at the source. In addition, identify all potential risks associated with works near holes by taking into account the locations and sizes of holes, site environment and constraints, work sequence and activities affected by the works, and adopt appropriate construction methods and control measures prior to the commencement of the works.
- During the construction stage, the construction team should review the risk assessment regularly to monitor the effectiveness of the hole management implementation and take actions after the review including: (i) refining the control measures used for the works; (ii) upgrading type of materials for the hole covers / fencing; and (iii) providing more supervision personnel to execute the hole management implementation.
- The work team should have effectively implemented fall prevention management and provided covers with stoppers and fencing for all openings.
- Workers could identify openings with potential falling risks and report it to their supervisors and take action against it.

### Reference information for sharing



Reference Materials  
on the Design for Safety  
Management System for the  
Hong Kong Construction  
Industry



Reference Material  
on Hole Management



Reference Material  
Guide to Smart Safety-  
Related Technologies for  
Use in Construction Works



Reference Material  
on Safety Roles and  
Responsibilities  
of Key Stakeholders in the  
Hong Kong  
Construction Industry



### Disclaimer

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