

CIC Safety Message No. 43/23

A WORKER FELL TO HIS DEATH AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN YAU TONG

An accident happened on 8 December 2023 at a construction site in Yau Tong, in which a worker fell from height and was certified death the next day. 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 use proper working platform.
- 2. Fall from unprotected edge.
- 3. Fall from the floor opening reserved for the works.
- 4. PPE is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
- 5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

Critical Control Measures

- Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks of falling from height and implement the demarcation of fatal zone.
- 2. Fence off the fatal zone as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced off area.
- 3. In the first place, work-above-ground should be avoided as far as possible. Whenever work-above-ground could not be avoided, suitable working platforms should be provided and properly used, for example, power-operated elevating working platform or mobile working platform.





Use suitable working platforms, for example, poweroperated elevating working platform or mobile working platform

- 4. Ensure proper use of PPE by workers.
- 5. Use appropriate Smart Site Safety System (SSSS) to strengthen safety management, for example, System for controlling hazardous areas and real-time working-at-height monitoring system.
- 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 and engineers should consider adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce the work-above-ground from the sources.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system; and provide all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures.
- The work team should check and ensure the safety signage and barriers selected are suitable for the intended purpose and have been properly installed and maintained.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks of falling from height, report it to their supervisors immediately.

Reference information for sharing



Guidelines on Work-Above-Ground Safety



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



Reference Material on Fatal Zone Management



Work-At-Height Safety Handbook

