



A WORKER FELL FROM A GRAB LOADER AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KWUN TONG

On 2 July 2024, a worker fell from a grab loader when in operation at a construction site in Kwun Tong. He lost consciousness and was sent to the hospital for treatment. 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 platforms.
2. Fall from unprotected edge of a working platform.
3. Lack of supervision or inadequate working system to govern the operation of grab.
4. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks of falling from height while operation of grab and develop safety measures.
2. In the first place, work-above-ground should be avoided as far as possible, for instance, operator uses a remote control to operate the grab from the ground.
3. If work-above-ground is unavoidable, ensure adequate safety precautions should have been taken to prevent workers from falling from height, such as providing each worker with suitable working platforms, step platforms or an effective fall arresting system, and ensure they make use of them while working.
4. Ensure that the grab is only operated by the person who holds a valid relevant certificate.
5. Appoint a competent and experienced supervisor to ensure all risks associated with the grab operation are effectively managed.
6. Provide the operators and the workers involved with the necessary safety information, instructions and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safety measures for the work.



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

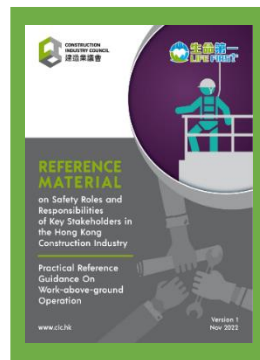
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the working environment of the operation zone and the risks nearby, and select the appropriate machinery and construction methods.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system; and strengthen the coordination with suppliers of grab loaders to ensure the operation of grab on site is carried out according to the plan and under effective supervision.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazards.
- 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-above-ground Operation)



Work-At-Height Safety Handbook



Poster - Working at Height Safety

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