



A WORKER WAS STRUCK TO DEATH BY METAL PIPES AT AN OPEN AREA IN SHEUNG SHUI

On 23 December 2024, a worker was struck by falling metal pipes while preparing to unload them from a lorry at an open area in Sheung Shui. He was certified dead after sending to 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. The workers do not stay away from fatal zone during the loading/unloading operation.
2. Failure to stack, stabilise and secure the loads on the deck of a lorry properly, and the loads overturn or dislocate.
3. Inadequate house rules and working system to govern the loading/unloading operation.
4. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment.



Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments with due considerations to the features of the loads and the working environment, identify the loading/unloading zone and fatal zone; and formulate safe working procedures.
2. Carry out the loading/ unloading operation in the designated loading/ unloading zones which are reasonably level.
3. Strictly prohibit any workers from entering the fatal zone where risks of falling objects are foreseeable by, for example, cordoning or fencing off the areas.
4. Stack the loads on the lorry securely in accordance with their size, shape, weight, centre of gravity (e.g. by means of strong racks).
5. Properly develop the sequence of the loading/ unloading operation, including assessing the number of lashings to be removed at a time, taking into account the integrity and stability of the loads and loads nearby, to prevent them from displacement in the course of the operation.
6. Use appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S) to strengthen safety management, for example: Install Dangerous Situation Alert System. If any person encroaching the dangerous area perimeter with the risk of being hit by falling objects, he/she will be alerted by the system.
7. Strengthen the coordination with materials and transportation suppliers to ensure the loading/unloading operation on site is carried out according to the plan and under effective supervision.
8. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures.



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, engineers should review or modify the load securement methods with the materials and transportation suppliers prior to the commencement of works, to reduce risks from the sources.
- During the construction stage, construction team should plan, manage and monitor the loading/unloading operation effectively; and arrange sufficient number of supervisors and workers who are competent to carry out the work.
- The work team shall ensure the fatal zone is properly fenced off with barriers and prominent notices are provided to ensure no unauthorised entry into the zone.
- Workers can identify any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference information for sharing



Reference Material on Fatal
Zone Management



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



Code of Practice for the Loading
of Vehicles
(Source: Transport Department)

 **Please Click the Images**



Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects. The CIC (including its members and employees) will not accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of or failure to use this message. For enquiries, please contact 2100 9000.