



A WORKER WAS STRUCK BY A SLEWING EXCAVATOR AT A FOUNDATION SITE AND PASSED AWAY THREE DAYS LATER

On 27 February 2025, while an excavator was slewing within an operation zone at a foundation site, its bucket struck a worker. The worker passed away three days later. 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. Workers fail to keep away from fatal zones when working.
2. Failure to provide proper fencing and suitable warning notices for the fatal zones.
3. Failure to properly design the site layout to segregate the areas where the mobile plants may operate or move.
4. Failure to provide necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to the workers concerned.
5. 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 struck by a moving or slewing mobile plant in the workplace and implement the demarcation of fatal zones.
2. No unauthorised people should enter fatal zones and the lookout man should stay outside the fatal zone to ensure that the fatal zone is clear of pedestrians at all times.
3. Ensure that sufficient visibility of the surrounding is available from the operator's seat to enable safe operation of the mobile plant; in addition, the mobile plants should be equipped with required safety devices such as mirrors, CCTV, ultrasonic sensing devices, etc.
4. Ensure that the safety devices are regularly inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that they are in safe working condition before use.
5. Use appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S), for example, install Dangerous Situation Alert System. If a worker is encroaching the fatal zone, siren and signal light from the system will be activated, to secure their safety.
6. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures of mobile plant operation.



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 movements of plants on construction site, and carry out design of site layout properly including providing pedestrian-only routes and planning fatal zones in the construction site properly etc.
- During the construction stage, construction team should supervise, co-ordinate and monitor the operation of moving plants in fatal zones, and implement the procedures as stated in the logistics plans and the safe working procedures.
- Work team shall 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 changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

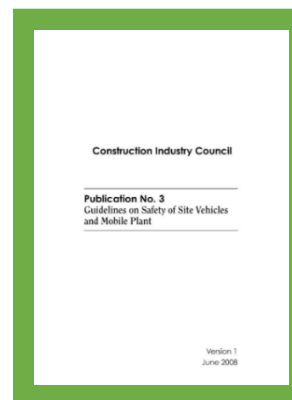
Reference Information for Sharing



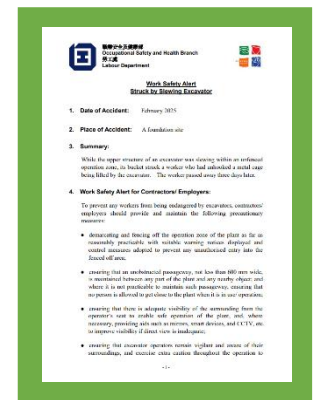
Reference Material on Fatal
Zone Management



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



Guidelines on Safety of Site
Vehicles and Mobile Plant



Work Safety Alert - Struck by
Slewing Excavator
(Source: Labour Department)



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