



Work Safety Alert Buried in Sand inside a Concrete Batching Plant

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2015
2. **Place of Accident :** A concrete batching plant
3. **Summary :**

A worker standing on a sand stockpile of a concrete batching plant during unloading of sand was later buried in sand. He was certified dead on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/Employers:

To prevent any persons from being buried in stockpile of materials such as aggregate, fine sand, etc. during the loading/ unloading process, the proprietor/ employer should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the operation of machinery/ plant concerned, the volume and characteristic of the materials being piled and the environment of the storage area, to identify all associated potential hazards;
- formulate and implement a safe system of work to eliminate all hazards associated with the machinery/ plant operation and stockpile of materials which should include, but not limited to, the following:
 - developing safe work methods and procedures for loading/ unloading of materials;
 - demarcating a danger zone for stockpiling of materials with suitable and adequate barriers and prohibiting any persons entering the zone



- ▶ during the loading/ unloading process;
 - ▶ displaying suitable warning notices at conspicuous positions to prevent unauthorized man-entry into the danger zone;
 - ▶ where access to the danger zone cannot be avoided, adopting a permit-to-work system with safety measures in place such that, among others, the loading/ unloading of materials is ceased with the power supply of the machinery/ plant involved switched off and locked; and
 - ▶ providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safety measures;
- establish and implement a visitor management plan prohibiting unauthorised entry to the operation zone by any persons making temporary stay at the workplace and restricting their access to low-risk areas; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
勞工處
Labour Department



DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.