



Work Safety Alert

Knocked over by a Lorry

1. **Date of Accident :** December 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A tunnel under construction
3. **Summary :**

A worker who was engaged in asphalt laying preparation work inside a tunnel under construction was knocked over to death by an unmanned lorry which rolled backwards.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :**

To prevent any workers/employees from being endangered by unintended vehicle movements in a workplace, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct an overall risk assessment (and task-specific risk assessments as necessary) to identify all potential hazards resulting from the operation and parking of vehicles in the workplace, taking into account the work environment, layout of the workplace including its traffic routes and parking areas, the nature of work to be conducted nearby, and movement of workers;
- formulating safe procedures for operation of vehicles and the work to be conducted nearby with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of relevant codes of practice and guidelines;



- as far as practicable, providing suitable parking areas for vehicles on firm and level ground and ensuring the proper parking of vehicles at designated parking areas ;
- ensuring every driver adopt all necessary measures for safe parking of vehicle, including:
 - applying the parking brake firmly, engaging the parking mode for automatic transmission vehicle, switching off the vehicle engine and removing the ignition key before leaving the vehicle;
 - if parking on slope is unavoidable, stopping the vehicle as close as possible to the nearside kerb, with first gear engaged in manual transmission vehicle and leaving the steering wheel turned to the right for parking uphill, or with reverse gear engaged in manual transmission vehicle and leaving the steering wheel turned to the left for parking downhill, such that the vehicle would be checked by the wheel coming against the kerb if the vehicle unexpectedly moves downhill after parking;
 - further to the above, leaving the steering wheel turned towards the side of the slope with no kerb so that the parked vehicle would roll away from the center of the road if the brake fails;
 - chocking the wheels of the vehicle as necessary to prevent unintended vehicle movements when parked on sloping ground;
- refraining any workers/employees from entering into the driving zone and parking zone, in particular at the front and rear ends of parked vehicles;
- establishing and maintaining an effective maintenance programme for vehicles including routine checks, regular inspections and servicing schedules according to the manufacturer's instruction to ensure that the vehicles particularly their braking systems are maintained in good condition at all times;



- providing all workers/employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

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

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.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

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