



Work Safety Alert **Collapse of a Tower Crane**

- 1. Date of Accident:** March 2026
- 2. Place of Accident:** A building construction site
- 3. Summary:**

While operating a tower crane to lift a metal working platform inside the lift shaft of a residential building under construction, the upper portion of the crane suddenly collapsed, resulting in the collapse of that section and the operator's cabin to the ground. The crane operator sustained serious bodily injuries and was certified dead at the scene.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers from being exposed to hazards arising from lifting operations, owners/contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, including but not limited to the following precautionary measures:

- developing and implementing a comprehensive lifting plan, including a suitable method of rigging and lifting, taking into account the condition of the lift shaft (including identifying obstacles or restricted spaces), and the dimensions and characteristics of the load;
- ensuring that the tower crane is used only for vertical lifting of loads, and not for pulling/ dragging loads or lifting fixed/ embedded loads;
- ensuring that the lift shaft is thoroughly inspected and kept free from obstacles (e.g. protruding bolts, embedded items, or uneven surfaces) as far as reasonably practicable, while maintaining adequate clearance between the lift shaft and the load throughout the entire lifting operation;



- ensuring that the lifting operations are properly supervised and controlled by a competent and experienced lifting supervisor so that all risks are effectively managed;
- appointing a signaller to give effective signals to the tower crane operator who does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the load during the lifting operation;
- ensuring that the tower crane is of good construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring the tower crane is properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work;
- ensuring the tower crane is regularly tested, thoroughly examined and inspected by a competent examiner and a competent person respectively;
- setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for the lifting operation within a lift shaft; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹:

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulation](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Crane](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

¹ Click to view documents



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