



## Industrial Accident (October 2021)

An accident happened on 8 October 2021 at a building renovation site in Happy Valley in which a worker was trapped under a collapsed bamboo scaffold and was certified dead in the hospital.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be much appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much!

Relevant link: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/08/P2021100801126.htm>  
Source: Information Services Department

## Recommendations

### ► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work especially outdoor working at height or bamboo scaffolding after taking into account the nature of work, working environment and weather conditions;
2. Set up safe system of work for which includes work arrangements under adverse weather conditions;
3. Ensure that sufficient ties of adequate strength are provided to secure the cantilever portion at the topmost floor, and provide adequate putlogs, ties, struts, bracing and steel brackets to secure the scaffolding framework;
4. Plastic sheeting should be removed under safe circumstances when a tropical cyclone warning signal or a strong monsoon signal is announced;
5. Appoint a competent person to re-inspect the scaffold to ensure that it is safe to use, and relevant records shall be kept; and
6. Employ qualified workers and provide them with adequate information, instructions and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures.



Management keeps monitoring weather conditions and makes suitable arrangements.

### ► As a Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Ensure the works are carried out in strict accordance with the method statement, safety procedures and safety measures on working-at-height;
2. Implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed by workers;
3. Worker should stop work and report to supervisor immediately when he / she encounters unsafe environment or there is inadequate personal protection equipment provided to him / her;
4. Do not make unauthorised alteration to the scaffolds; and
5. Dismantle bamboo scaffolds and remove materials after completion of work or when they are no longer required.

### ► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment on working-at-height including scaffolding works and establish safe working procedures; and
2. Develop and implement an effective, proactive inspection programme to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed, and to report any non-compliances.



Workers stay in safe environment.

The above only listed out key points of safety, for more information please make reference to the **Code of Practice For Bamboo Scaffolding Safety**, the **Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather**, the **Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms** issued by the Labour Department and **Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds** and **Work-at-Height Safety Handbook** issued by the CIC.

## 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.