



Industrial accident (April 2021)

Two fatal work accidents happened on 14 April and 21 April 2021, in which two workers were suspected to have been struck by lifting load while assisting in lifting operation of a lorry-mounted crane at different construction sites. They were injured and certified dead in the hospital.

In April 2021, the two fatal accidents were related to lifting operation happened in construction sites. The situation is worrying. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) hereby urges industry stakeholders to take immediate actions, especially lifting operation, to plan ahead safe working procedures and arrange corresponding measures as soon as possible to reduce the risk of lifting operation.

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/202104/14/P2021041400819.htm>
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/21/P2021042100892.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 lifting operation, particularly taking into account the lifting methods, selection of lifting appliances and lifting gear, etc.;
2. Formulate a lifting plan with due consideration to the results of the risk assessment, covering the selection of suitable lifting appliances and lifting gear as well as the competency of workers involved;
3. Appoint a competent and experienced person to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively managed and reduced;
4. Fence off a lifting zone with display of suitable warning notices properly. Effective measures such as appointment of sufficient signaller shall be taken to ensure no unauthorised entry into the lifting zone if it is not reasonably practicable to fence off the lifting zone; and
5. Provide all relevant workers and employees with adequate information, instructions and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures.



Ensure that the Lifting Gear (L.G.) is in good condition before use

► As a Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Ensure that all loads are securely attached by properly trained and competent riggers to avoid slipping or displacement of the loads during the lifting operation;
2. Follow the safe working procedures and the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe lifting operations. For example, the outriggers should be fully extended as far as practicable and the safe working load should not be exceeded;
3. Ensure that every lifting gear to be used for lifting is in good condition and properly used;
4. Strictly monitor the lifting operations to ensure that no one stays below the loads during the lifting process; and
5. Maintain good and effective communication with crane operator.



Lifting zone should be properly fenced off with barriers

► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Assist the competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessment with respect to the operation and actual site conditions. Then assist the employer in formulating safe working methods and procedures in compliance with the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines; and
2. Develop and implement an effective proactive inspection programme to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed and report any non-compliances.

The above only listed out key points of safety measures, for more information please make reference to **F&IU (Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear) Regulations, Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Crane** issued by Labour Department and **Lifting Safety Handbook** Issued by CIC.

Disclaimer

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