



A WORKER WAS SUSPECTED TO BE TRAPPED BY A POWER-OPERATED ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KAI TAK AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS

An accident happened on 15 January 2024 in which a worker was suspected to be trapped by a power-operated elevating work platform (PEWP) at a construction site in Kai Tak, she lost consciousness and was sent to the hospital for treatment. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Operator being trapped between the power-operated elevating work platform and other fixed objects while ascending.
2. Failure to operate power-operated elevating work platform in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
3. Untrained workers operate the power-operated elevating work platform.
4. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work and taking into account the nature of work, the working environment, the ground condition and the limitations of the type of PEWP.
2. Formulate the detailed safe working procedures with due regard to the result of the assessment, and in conformity with the instructions given in the machine manufacturer's manual.
3. A PEWP should only be operated by persons who have received suitable training and are competent to operate the machine.
4. Before raising or lowering the work platform, make sure there are no surrounding obstacles and no person is nearby.
5. Adopt safety technologies to enhance safety management and reduce risks; for example, install the Smart Sensor. When the PEWP is ascending and the worker's head is approaching an overhead obstacle, the siren from the system will be activated, and the elevating operation will be suspended to safeguard the worker.
6. Provide workers with all necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures, safety measures and the proper use of the power-operated elevating work platform.
7. Establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and management system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.
8. Ensure the power-operated elevating work platform complied with relevant safety standards is used properly, and inspected and maintained regularly.



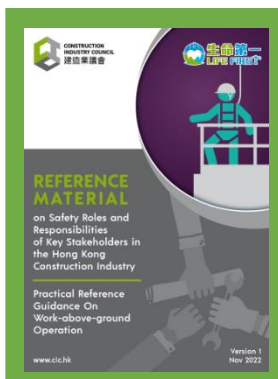


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

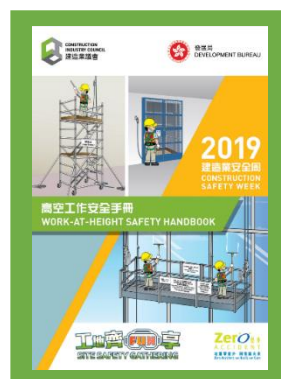
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the working environment of the operation zone and the risks nearby (e.g. overhead obstacles), and select appropriate construction methods and machinery, in order to reduce risks from the source.
- During the construction stage, the work team must ensure that the PEWP is only operated by an authorised person who has adequately trained and is competent by reasons of substantial training and practical experience; in addition, ensure that the PEWP is regularly inspected, tested, and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in order to ensure that it is in safe working condition at all times.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazard.
- Workers could identify any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference information for sharing



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Work-above-ground Operation)



Work-at-Height Safety Handbook



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