CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

CIC Safety Message
No. 07/24

A WORKER FELL TO HIS DEATH AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KWAI CHUNG

On 21 March 2024, a worker was suspected of having fallen from height at a construction site in Kwai Chung, and he was confirmed dead at the scene. 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. Failure to use proper working platform.
2. Fall from unprotected edge.
3. Fall from the opening of working platform.
4. PPE is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

Life First - Walk the Talk - "Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry - Work-above-ground Operation" was held on 19 July 2023. Please watch replay of the Webinar at CIC website.

Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks of falling from height and develop the safe working procedures.
2. The entire bamboo scaffold should be designed as a closely spaced bamboo scaffold, and a suitable working platform should be erected at all working locations on every lift.
3. Working platforms should be provided with suitable access and egress, e.g. inclined or straight ladders with suitable hand grips.
4. The bamboo scaffold shall be inspected by a competent person before being taken into use for the first time and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days; and the competent person has signed and issued Form 5 prescribed under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations, to certify that the scaffold is in safe working order.
5. When it is impracticable to provide a suitable working platform, the use of full body safety harness with an independent anchorage or fall arresting is only a last resort of fall protection when there is no alternative.
6. Ensure guard-rails and toe-boards are provided at the floor edges.
7. Provide workers with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.
8. The work team should have developed an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure compliance with the above measures.

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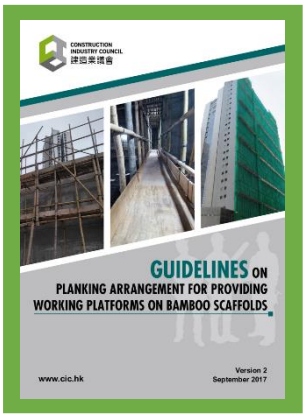
SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

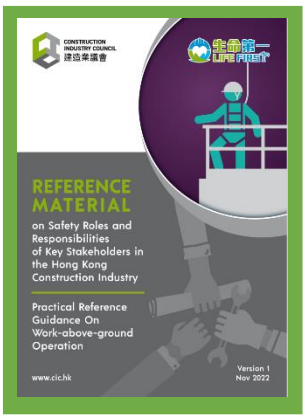
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce the working at height from the sources.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system to ensure that the working platforms, personal protective equipment and fall arresting devices (e.g. independent lifeline) are inspected before work to ensure they are in good working order.
- 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 should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks of falling from height, report it to their supervisors immediately.

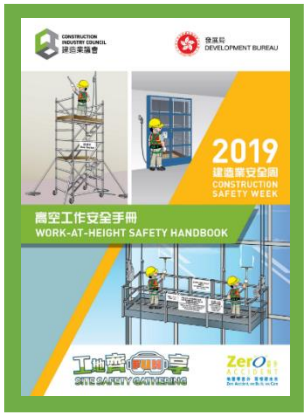
Reference information for sharing



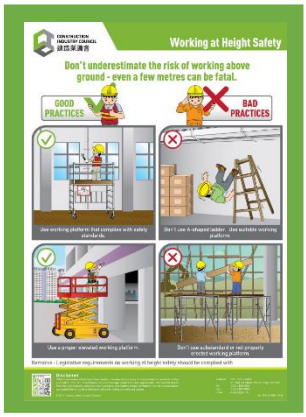
Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds



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



Poster - Working at Height Safety

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