CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

CIC Safety Message

No. 07/26

A WORKER WAS STRUCK TO DEATH BY A PRECAST CONCRETE BLOCK AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KAI TAK

On 22 April 2026, a worker was pressed by a precast concrete block that suddenly toppled while he was assisting a fork-lift truck in handling the block at a construction site in Kai Tak. The worker was certified dead later in hospital. 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. Workers fail to keep away from fatal zones when working.
2. Failure to provide proper fencing and suitable warning notices for the fatal zones.
3. Failure to properly design the site layout to segregate the areas where the fork-lift trucks may operate.
4. Failure to properly support, store and stack the goods.
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 "Mobile Plant and Lifting Operation Safety" was held on 19 September 2024. Please click the above image to watch the replay at CIC website (Chinese Version only)

Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments with **due consideration to the size, shape, weight, centre of gravity of loads, develop safe working procedures and implement the demarcation of fatal zones**.
2. **Fence off the fatal zones properly with barricades and prominent notices**, ensure no unauthorised entry into the zones.
3. **Ensure the loads are supported, stored and stacked in a safe and secure manner**, and to select suitable methods to prevent the loads from toppling.
4. **Keep the centre of gravity of loads as low as possible.** For example, storing and stacking the goods horizontally.
5. **Provide safe walkways for pedestrians** which should be kept apart from the travelling routes of the fork-lift trucks.
6. Before using the fork-lift trucks, the weight of load and its centre of gravity should be assessed, **ensure the safe working load** of the fork-lift trucks **does not exceed**.
7. The speed of the fork-lift trucks should be maintained in **slow** manner.
8. **No person should be allowed to stay or walk underneath the load**.
9. **Use appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S)**, for example, install Dangerous Situation Alert System. If a worker is encroaching the fatal zone, siren and signal light from the system will be activated, secure workers' safety.
10. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary **safety information, instructions and training**, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures of the fork-lift truck related operation.

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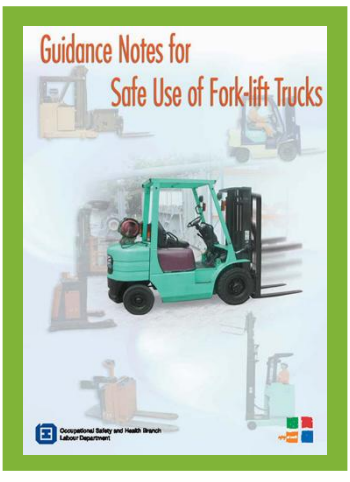
SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

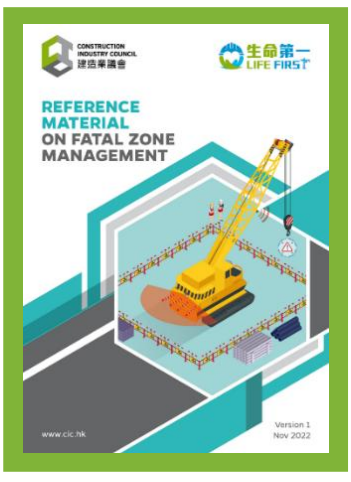
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the working environment of the operation zone before commencement of works, and select appropriate methods and plants to transport the loads.
- During the construction stage, construction team should supervise, coordinate and monitor the operation of the fork-lift trucks in the fatal zones, properly implement the logistics plans and follow the safe working procedures.
- Work team shall check and ensure safety signages and barriers selected are suitable for the intended purpose and have been properly installed and maintained.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference Information

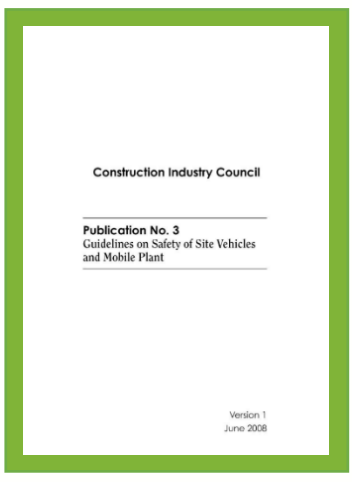


Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks



Reference Material on Fatal Zone Management

Reference Material - Guide to Smart Safety-Related Technologies for Use in Construction Works



Guidelines on Safety of Site Vehicles and Mobile Plant

Please Click the Images

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