CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

CIC Safety Message

No. 19 / 26



AN ENGINEER SUSTAINED LOWER JAW INJURY FROM REINFORCEMENT BAR AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN SHEUNG SHUI

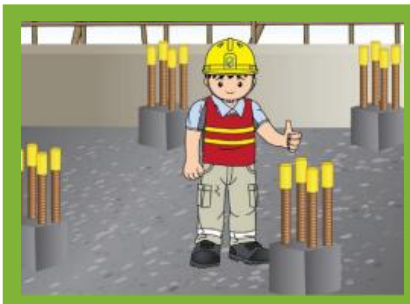
On 30 October 2026, an engineer at a construction site in Sheung Shui slipped and fell while working and sustained an injury to the lower jaw from nearby reinforcement bars. He was subsequently conveyed to hospital for treatment. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety 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. Failure to use the designated safe access to and egress from workplace of the site.
2. Failure to protect the protruding rebars.
3. Undesirable layout design.
4. Improper housekeeping, obstructed access by materials, slippery floors and insufficient lighting on site such that workers may slip, trip and fall.
5. 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 the risks of working near protruding rebars and develop safe working procedures.
2. Proper layout design, provide suitable and adequate safe access and egress, and ensure workers make use of it.
3. Ensure good housekeeping, non-slippery floors and sufficient lighting on site, in addition, the access should be free from obstructions to prevent workers from tripping or slipping.
4. Ensure the protruding rebars should be covered with plastic caps or metal troughs.
5. Consider bending the rebars before their erection in the designing phase where practicable.
6. Encourage the contractors to participate in the “Worker Friendly Construction Site” Campaign which launched by the CIC. One of the campaign’s aims is to encourage the industry to provide a safe, tidy, clean and friendly working environment for workers.
7. Establish and implement an effective management system to ensure the safety measures are effective. For example, establish a material management procedure that requires all protruding steel bars to be fitted with protective sleeves, fences, and warning signs.
8. Provide workers with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.



Ensure the protruding rebars should be covered with plastic caps or metal troughs



Provide suitable and adequate safe access and egress

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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 adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce protruding rebars from the sources (e.g., consider bending the rebars before their erection in the designing phase). Besides, whenever possible, avoid overlapping the high-risk activities in the same working area.
- During the construction stage, the construction team should exercise stringent access control to the restricted work zone associated with hazards of protruding bars in order to minimise the number of workers exposed to the hazard, and no unauthorised entry to the restricted work zone is allowed.
- The work team should provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every workplace.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks of protruding bars, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference Information



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong



Poster - Proper Protection and Storage of Steel Bars

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