



A WORKER DIED AFTER FOUND COLLAPSED INSIDE A WATER TANK IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT TSEUNG KWAN O

On 4 July 2023, a worker was found unconscious in the bottom of an about 15metres-depth water tank in a construction site at Tseung Kwan O, and he was certified dead later in the 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. Inhalation of hazardous gas, fume, vapour or lack of oxygen, causing workers working in confined spaces to lose consciousness or suffocate.
2. The workplace is not well-ventilated where the chemical is in use, and the chemical vapour is not extracted from the working area.
3. Loss of consciousness of worker at work arising from an increase in body temperature, such as heat stroke.
4. The worker did not use approved respiratory equipment and other required personal protective equipment.



Please refer to the Safety Video -
Confined Space Works in the CIC website

Critical Control Measures

1. Before working in a confined space, a competent person shall be appointed to carry out risk assessment and make recommendations. After issuance of permit-to-work certificate, only certified workers shall enter or work in confined spaces.
2. Before entering the confined space, ensure that the confined space has to be sufficiently cooled and ventilated, and effective measures have been taken to prevent ingress or in-rush of hazardous gas, vapour, dust, fume or free flowing solid or liquid to the confined space.
3. Workers should use suitable safety harness connected to a lifeline that the free end is held by a person staying outside the confined space.
4. Review the "Material Safety Data Sheet" and conduct risk assessment of the hazardous chemicals, to identify its potential or immediate hazards to safety and health of such chemicals for proper arrangement and management.
5. Implement effective Design for Safety Management System, fully consider the actual situation prior to commencement of work, and eliminate or reduce the major risks of confined spaces during construction.



Workers should use suitable safety harness connected to a lifeline that is strong enough to enable him to be pulled out

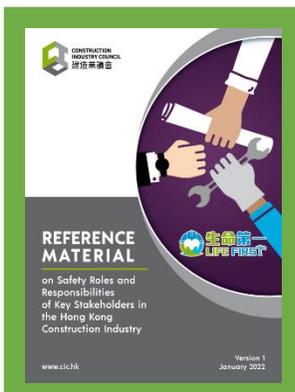


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

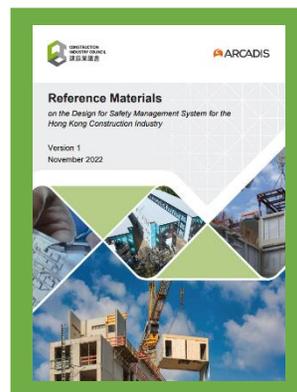
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers should review or modify the designs with relevant stakeholders to eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks of a confined space that may arise during construction, the maintenance and use of a building.
- During the construction stage, work team should plan, manage and monitor their confined space work effectively to make sure that each worker is under their control with appropriate supervision, instructions and information so that the work can be carried out, so far as is reasonably practicable, without risks to health and safety.
- Work team must not begin confined space work unless reasonable steps have been taken to prevent access by unauthorised persons to the confined spaces.
- Workers should follow to 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 for sharing



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



Reference Material on the Design for Safety Management System for the Hong Kong Construction Industry



Poster Safety Measures-Confined Space



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