

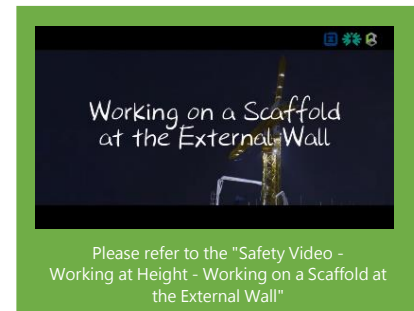


A BAMBOO SCAFFOLD COLLAPSED AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KAI TAK CAUSING THE DEATH OF TWO WORKERS AND INJURING THREE WORKERS

On 20 February 2024, an accident happened at a construction site in Kai Tak, in which a bamboo scaffold mounted on the external wall of a building suddenly collapsed. As a result, two workers died and three workers were injured. 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 strictly follow the requirements as stipulated in the "Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety" published by the Labour Department and install sufficient critical members (e.g. ties).
2. Alter the bamboo scaffold without the immediate supervision of a competent person.
3. Failure to arrange a competent person to thoroughly check the strength and stability of bamboo scaffolds after long holiday.
4. Insufficient management and barricades to the fatal zones.
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 by taking consideration the nature of work and the working environment; and formulate the safe working procedures.
2. Bamboo scaffolds should be properly designed by engineers, besides, bamboo scaffolds should be erected, altered and dismantled by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
3. Strictly follow the requirements as stipulated in the "Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety" published by the Labour Department, to install sufficient scaffolding members and critical members, including standards, ledgers, bracings and ties, and they should be complied with relevant standard.
4. Ensure the supporting structures are justified with sufficient stability, and the structural anchors for the ties are preset into the structurally sound members of building.
5. Arrange a competent person to thoroughly check the strength and stability of bamboo scaffolds after the long holiday, and issue Form 5 to certify it is in safe working order.
6. Do not make unauthorised alteration to the bamboo scaffolds and do not work on the unchecked bamboo scaffolds.
7. Strictly prohibit any workers from entering the fatal zone where risks of falling objects are foreseeable by, for example, cordoning or fencing off the areas.
8. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

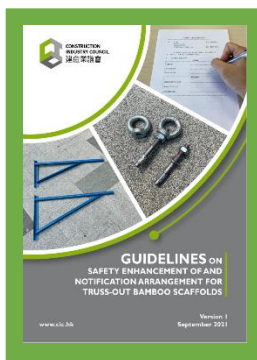


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

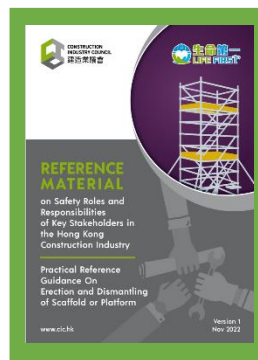
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should take into accounts the nature of work and the work environment prior to the commencement of works; and adopt appropriate working platforms and construction methods.
- During the construction stage, the construction team should develop, implement and maintain a safety management system for bamboo scaffolds, and arrange competent person and allow sufficient time to check the stability of bamboo scaffolds before the use, including ensure the secureness of the main posts and the ties are remain secured in positions etc.
- The work team should ensure that workers are only allowed to work on the bamboo scaffolds unless a competent person has inspected the bamboo scaffolds and confirmed that it is in safe working order.
- 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 Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Erection and Dismantling of Scaffold or Platform)



Work-At-Height Safety Handbook



Disclaimer

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