



A PILE DRIVER OVERTURNED AT A SITE IN SAU MAU PING

On 11 April 2024, a piling driver overturned at a site in Sau Mau Ping. No one was injured in the incident. 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 operate and use the pile driver in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
2. Untrained workers operate pile driver without authorisation.
3. Failure to check the ground condition prior to the commencement of work to ensure there is sufficient load bearing capacity.
4. Operate or drive the pile driver on soft or uneven ground.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures and sufficient management and barricades 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 associated risks of ground conditions and the working environment; and formulate the safe working procedures with due consideration to ensure the even ground of the working area, identify fatal zone and proper working positions of workers, so as to eliminate or properly control the risks.
2. Fence off the fatal zone properly with barricades and prominent notices to ensure no unauthorised entry into the zones.
3. Appoint an operator with sufficient qualifications and experience to operate the pile driver.
4. The operator should follow the operating procedures of the pile driver as recommended in its manufacturer's manual.
5. Pile driver should travel at creep speeds on firm and level ground. Mats or other suitable travelling surface should be laid where sinkage of the wheels or crawlers could occur in soft ground.
6. Levelling or compaction of ground, or provision of load-bearing supports should be done, as appropriate before operating a pile driver on slopes, rough terrain or soft ground.
7. Ensure the pile driver is certified to be in safe working order prior to operation through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person.
8. 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 lifting operation.
9. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed, and all relevant legislation is fully complied with.



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

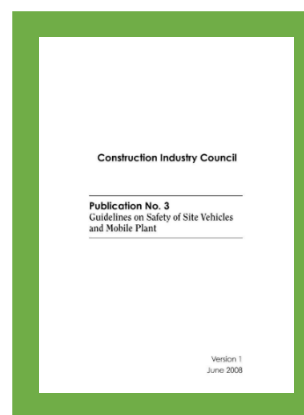
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the working environment of the operation zone and the risks nearby, and select the appropriate machineries and construction methods.
- During the construction stage, develop safety plans and safe working procedures, brief all relevant staff about the plans and procedures, and clearly assign individual safety responsibilities.
- Work team shall conduct dynamic risk assessments for the rapidly changing activities, continuously identify the hazards, assess the risks, and take actions to eliminate or reduce risks during construction.
- 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 for sharing



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



Guidelines on Safety of Site Vehicles and Mobile Plant



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