



A STEEL BAR PIERCED THROUGH A WORKER'S THIGH IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT CHEK LAP KOK

On 12 April 2024, a worker was suspected of losing his balance and a steel bar pierced through his thigh in a construction site at Chek Lap Kok. He was sent to the hospital for further treatment. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to draw your attention to this safety message. 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 every place of work on the site.
2. Failure to protect the protruded metal bars.
3. Improper housekeeping, insufficient lighting and slippery floors on site such that workers may slip, trip and fall down.
4. 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 protruded metal bars and develop safe working procedures.
2. Provide suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work, and ensure workers make use of it.
3. Ensure good housekeeping, sufficient lighting and non-slippery floors on site to prevent workers from falling, tripping or slipping.
4. Ensure the protruding bars should be covered with plastic caps or metal troughs.
5. Establish and implement an effective management system, continuously monitor the restricted work zone associated with hazards of protruding bars, and take appropriate follow-up actions to ensure the safety measures are effective.
6. Provide workers with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.



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 adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce protruding bars from the sources (e.g., consider bending the starter bars 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 place of work.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks of protruding bars, report it to their supervisors immediately.

Reference information for sharing



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



Poster - Proper Protection and Storage of Steel Bars



Disclaimer

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