



## SAFETY REMINDER ON WORK-AT-HEIGHT AND CONSTRUCTION SITE FIRE SAFETY

To prevent any workers from falling from height or falling objects while carrying out scaffolding work (includes hanging or removal of protective screen of scaffolds), work team shall conduct dynamic risk assessments and take all necessary safety measures to eliminate hazards. In addition, the work team should always review the fire safety measures at the construction site to prevent fires from occurring and affecting the safety of workers and people in the vicinity. 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 provide and use proper working platform.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used, and safety harness is not connected to an anchorage.
3. Failure to remove objects and materials accumulated on fans and protective net at the scaffolds.
4. Protective net, screen, tarpaulin/ plastic sheeting installed to cover the façade of buildings do not possess appropriate fire-retardant properties that conform to recognised standard.
5. Flammable or combustible materials are not properly stored.
6. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

### Critical Control Measures

1. The working platforms on the scaffolds should be **closely boarded**, and be provided with **suitable and safe access, egress**, suitable guard-rails and toe-boards.
2. In terms of bamboo scaffold, the scaffold should be **designed as a closely spaced bamboo scaffold**, and a suitable working platform shall be erected at all working locations on every lift.
3. Whenever working environment is impracticable to provide suitable working platforms, it is a must to **provide every worker with a suitable full-body safety harness and an anchorage system (e.g. a fixed anchor, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system)** for continuous attachment of the safety harness.
4. Employer must **ensure the proper use of the safety harnesses by the persons to whom they were provided. The safety harnesses should be attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchorage.**
5. All anchorages should be designed to withstand a minimum **pull-out force of 6 kN**.
6. Suitably **remove objects and materials accumulated on the fans and protective net at the scaffolds.**
7. **Properly fence off areas where there are foreseeable hazards of falling objects** with barricades and prominent notices to ensure no unauthorised entry into the zones.
8. Protective net, screen, tarpaulin/plastic sheeting installed to cover the façade of buildings under construction, demolition, repair or minor works should have **appropriate fire-retardant properties in compliance with a recognised standard**. Examples of recognised standards recommended by the Buildings Department include GB 5725-2009 – Safety nets, BS 5867-2:2008 (Type B performance requirements) and NFPA 701:2019 (Test Method 2); and sample testing should be carried out before use to ensure its flame-retardant properties.
9. **Maintain good housekeeping** and store flammable materials properly. Regularly **clean up discarded protective net, packaging materials, wood chips, sawdust and other construction waste.**
10. Recommend implementing **no smoking policy in construction sites.**
11. **Appoint fire marshal to conduct fire prevention patrol** and regular fire drills.
12. Provision of sufficient **fire detection equipment, fire alarm systems and fire extinguishers.**
13. **Clearly define escape route** with regular review.
14. **Adopt appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S)** to strengthen the monitoring of fire risks, e.g. Smart Smoke Detection System or Temperature Monitoring System.



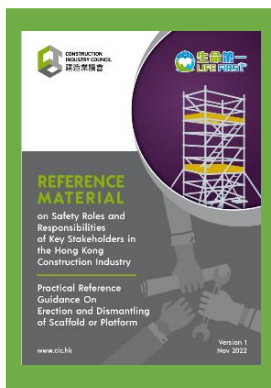
CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
建造業議會

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

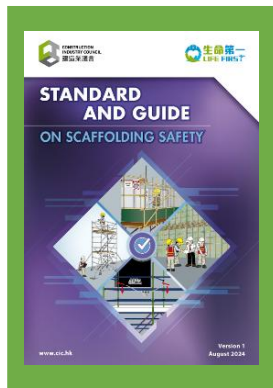
**What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?**

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should take into accounts the work environment prior to the commencement of works, and select suitable construction methods, working platforms and anchorage system. In terms of fire safety, eliminate or reduce the hot works and the number of flammable materials stored in the construction site from the source; and properly plan the material storages in the construction site.
- The construction team should procure protective net, screen, tarpaulin/ plastic with appropriate fire-retardant properties in compliance with recognised standards, for installation on the façades of buildings.
- The work team shall check and ensure that no residual fire risks left at their responsible areas by end of shift.
- The work team shall inspect the working platforms, personal protective equipment and anchorages before work, to ensure that they are in good working order.
- Workers should follow the developed safe measures, in case identifying any risks on falling from height or fire are identified, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

## Reference Information



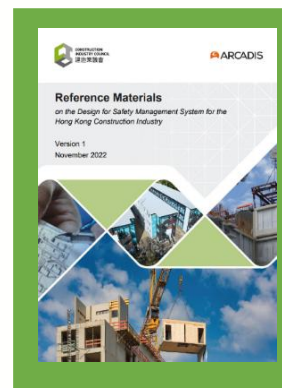
Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Erection and Dismantling of Scaffold or Platform)



Standard and Guide on Scaffolding Safety



Buildings Department Circular Letter – Use of Fire Retardant Protective Net/ Screen/ Tarpaulin/ Plastic Sheeting on Façade of Building under Construction, Demolition, Repair or Minor Works



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



Poster – Fire Prevention



**Please Click the Images**



## Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects. The CIC (including its members and employees) will not accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of or failure to use this message. For enquiries, please contact 2100 9000.