



FOUR WORKERS INVOLVED IN LIFTING-RELATED ACCIDENTS: TWO DEAD, TWO INJURED

(Update: 14 January 2026 23:48)

On 12 January 2026, a worker was detaching the lifting gear connected to the top of a water tank at a construction site in Kai Tak, the water tank displaced suddenly, trapping the worker between the water tank and a bored pile casing nearby. He was certified dead later in hospital. On 14 January 2026, several oxy-acetylene cylinders fell from a container during a lifting operation and hit workers underneath, resulting in the death of one worker and injuries to two workers. 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. Workers do not stay away from fatal zone during the lifting operation.
2. Failure to fasten the gate of the container holding the loads.
3. The place supporting the loads is insecure (e.g. the soil ground is too loose).
4. Failure to provide necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to the workers who are required to perform lifting works.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Critical Control Measures

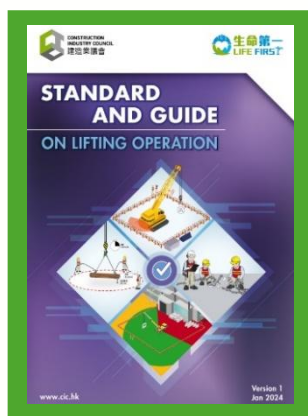
1. Prior to the commencement of lifting operation, the construction team should develop a lifting plan with due consideration to the **size, shape, centre of gravity and weight of all loads to be lifted as well as the rigging methods** for preventing any unintended movements of the loads.
2. **Do not pass the loads over any person** during lifting operation, the lifting routes shall be planned properly.
3. **No unauthorised people should enter fatal zones** and the lookout man should stay outside the fatal zone to ensure that the fatal zone is clear of pedestrians at all times.
4. **Ensure that loads are properly secured** to prevent slipping and displacement during lifting operation.
5. Where a container is used for raising or lowering any loads, the owner shall **cause the container to be enclosed or to be designed or constructed as to prevent the accidental fall of any such objects**.
6. Ensure the **gate of the container holding the loads is properly fastened** (e.g. "Lifting cage").
7. Ensure that **the place supporting the loads is secure**.
8. **Formulate proper rigging methods for detaching lifting gear** so as to prevent displacement of the objects in the course of unrigging operations.
9. Ensure that all workers who direct, rig/ unrig and handle the loads have been **properly trained in rigging** and capable of using lifting gear and rigging methods suitable for the loads.
10. The **appropriate lifting appliances and lifting gear should be selected** and inspected by competent person, and ensure that they are in good condition with valid certificates before use.
11. **Implement Safe Lifting "3, 3, 3"** as a hold point of lifting procedures before lifting: Keep 3m away from materials being lifted; lift up the materials 300mm from ground; and wait for 3 seconds for stabilising the lifting object before lifting operation.
12. **Use appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S)** to strengthen safety management, for example: Install Dangerous Situation Alert System. If any person is encroaching the dangerous area, he/she will be alerted by the system.
13. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary **safety information, instructions, training and supervision**, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures of the lifting operation.

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 consider the working environment of the operation zone and the risks nearby, and plan lifting routes, select appropriate lifting appliances and lifting gear prior to the commencement of lifting works.
- During the construction stage, construction team should establish and implement an effective management system, and supervised by competent and experienced lifting supervisors for the lifting operation in accordance with the lifting plan.
- The work team shall ensure the fatal zone is properly fenced off with barriers and prominent notices are provided to ensure no unauthorised entry into the fatal zone during high-risk operation.
- Workers can identify any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference Information



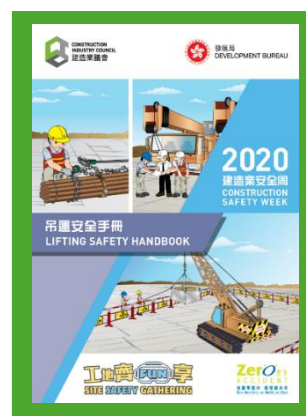
Standard and Guide on
Lifting Operation



Reference Material on
Fatal Zone Management



Reference Material - Guide to
Smart Safety-related
Technologies for Use in
Construction Works



Lifting Safety Handbook



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