



A WORKER FELL TO DEATH FROM POWER-OPERATED ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM DURING MAINTENANCE WORK AT A SPORTS CENTRE

An accident happened on 7 August 2023, in which a worker was carrying out maintenance work on a power-operated elevating work platform. Unexpectedly, the platform tipped over, causing the worker to fall from height and he was then certified death. 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. The power-operated elevating work platform collapses due to inappropriate setting.
2. Operator being trapped between the power-operated elevating work platform and other fixed objects while ascending.
3. Operator overstretches his body outside the power-operated elevating work platform and falls from it.
4. Power-operated elevating work platform is not properly used and no regular inspection and maintenance work are carried out.



Critical Control Measures

1. Identify falling risks, establish system of work and ensure relevant measures are implemented.
2. Ensure dynamic risk assessment is carried out to identify and manage the risks and hazards induced by the changes in the process or working environment.
3. Adopt safety technologies to enhance safety management and reduce risks with respect to the changes of working environment, for example, use system to monitor the safe working load and other working parameters of the power-operated elevating work platform, etc.
4. Follow the safe working procedures and the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe operations. For example, the safe working load should not exceed, the operating area should be fenced off, etc.
5. Provide workers with all necessary safety information, instructions and trainings, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures, safety measures and the proper use of the power-operated elevating work platform.
6. Ensure the power-operated elevating work platform complied with relevant safety standards is used properly, and inspected and maintained regularly.
7. A safety harness should be used and connected to a designated anchorage point while working on the power-operated elevating work platform.



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

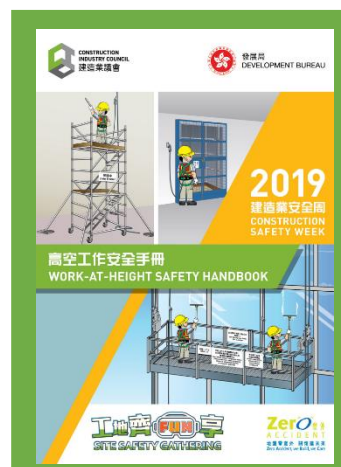
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, the designer and engineer should consider the operations and establish the proper methods and relevant safety measures.
- During the construction stage, the work team must ensure that the power-operated elevating work platform to be examined by designated persons before the operations.
- The work team can make use of risk assessment to identify the risk that could occur during construction, and apply control measures to eliminate the hazards.
- Workers can identify the environment with potential falling risks and report it to their supervisors and take action against it.

Reference information for sharing



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Work-above-ground Operation)



2019 Construction Safety Week (Work-at-Height Safety Handbook)