



THREE PASSERS-BY INJURED BY FALLING GLASS FRAGMENTS FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT TSIM SHA TSUI

On 12 March 2024, an incident happened in a construction site at Tsim Sha Tsui, in which part of the glass on a curtain wall was suspected to have collided during a lifting operation. The glass fragments were fell on a footpath nearby, resulting in three passers-by being injured. 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 assess the risks that contributed by wind speed (while lifting a load with a larger area) prior to the commencement of lifting operation, e.g. swaying or rotating due to the influence of wind and hit the obstacles.
2. Failure to secure the loads or unbalance of the loads.
3. Insufficient management and barricades to the fatal zones.
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 lifting operation, construction team should select appropriate rigging methods and lifting gears, taking into account the characteristics of the loads (e.g. its size, shape, centre of gravity and materials, etc.), the wind condition and the method statement.
2. Arrange appropriate lifting routes to avoid passing over persons or passing obstacles.
3. Conduct checking before each lifting operation, to ensure that proper rigging method is used to securely fasten the loads.
4. Attach tag lines to the loads so as to control its rotation.
5. Coordinate with relevant stakeholders and take appropriate protective measures, such as erecting the protective screens and fencing off the areas where there is a risk of falling objects.
6. Closely monitor the weather conditions, such as excessive wind speed, lightning, heavy rain and fog, make reference to the operation manual of the crane and stop the operation when the weather conditions are unsuitable.
7. Appoint a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively managed.
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.



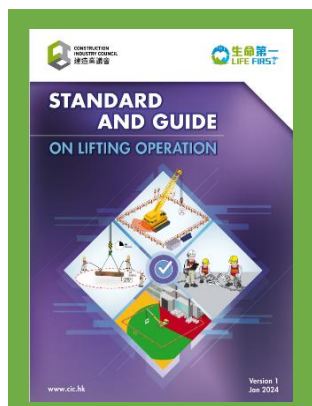


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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 risks from the sources.
- During the construction stage, construction team should develop lifting plan with identification of fatal zones, brief all relevant staff about the plan and clearly assign individual safety responsibilities.
- The work team shall ensure the lifting zone is properly fenced off with barriers and prominent notices are put up to ensure no unauthorised entry into the zone.
- Workers can identify any changes in the environment and construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

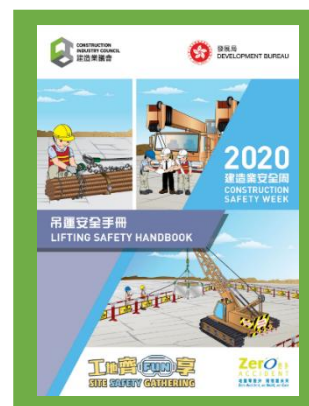
Reference information for sharing



Standard and Guide on Lifting Operation



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



Lifting Safety Handbook



Poster
"致命區域要圍封
一時疏忽意外生"
(Chinese Version Only)