



Work Safety Alert
Struck to Fall off Mobile Elevating Work Platform
by Detached I-beam

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2025
2. **Place of Accident :** Basement excavation of a building site
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was working on a mobile elevating work platform (“EWP”) to dismantle an I-beam from an excavation temporary support structure, the I-beam suddenly detached and struck the worker, causing him to fall from the EWP to the ground below for 4m. The worker was certified dead on the spot.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers engaged in excavation temporary support dismantling work from being struck by any structure or parts thereof during dismantling work, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- providing substantive support to the temporary structure to be dismantled as necessary to prevent any part of the structure from accidental detaching, collapsing or failure during the work;
- ensuring that no workers work, pass or stay underneath the temporary structure being dismantled;
- fencing off the area for the dismantling work as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and control measures implemented to prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced-off area;
- ensuring every person working on the EWP is wearing a suitable safety



harness with its lanyard anchored to a specific anchorage point of EWP designed by the manufacturer to prevent falls while working on EWP's work platform;

- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the dismantling work, taking into account the construction/ configuration, size, shape, center of gravity of the structure to be dismantled, the sequence of work, the work environment and with due regard to the results of risk assessments, legislation and guidelines to eradicate the risks to workers;
- ensuring the dismantling work is carried out by workers with necessary safety information, instruction and training under the immediate supervision of a competent supervisor who should have sufficient technical knowledge and be capable to read and understand construction drawings, risk assessment reports and method statements; and
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the dismantling work.

5. Reference¹ :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Gas Welding and Flame Cutting\) Regulation](#)
- [Code of Practice : Safety and Health at Work for Gas Welding and Flame Cutting](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

¹ Click to view documents



DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.