職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
勞工處
Labour Department

Work Safety Alert
Struck by an Excavator

1. Date of Accident : June 2026

2. Place of Accident : A metal waste recycling plant

3. Summary :

While an excavator was undergoing testing at a metal waste recycling plant, a nearby worker was suspected to have been struck by a moving part of the excavator. He was rushed to hospital in a semi-conscious state and passed away later that day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Owners / Contractors / Employers :

To prevent any workers from being endangered by a lifting appliance in operation, owners/ contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, including but not limited to the following precautionary measures:

- demarcating and fencing off the operation zone of the lifting appliance as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and control measures adopted to prevent any unauthorised entry into the fenced off area;

- ensuring that an unobstructed passageway, not less than 600 mm wide, is maintained between any part of the lifting appliance and any nearby object; and where it is not practicable to maintain such passageway, ensuring that no person is allowed to get close to the lifting appliance when it is in use, operation, or under testing;

- assigning a banksman to give signal to the operator where the operator's view is obstructed and ensuring effective communication between the banksman and the operator throughout the operation;

- ensuring that there is adequate visibility of the surrounding from the operator's seat to enable safe operation of the lifting appliance, and, where necessary, providing aids such as mirrors, smart devices, and CCTV, etc. to improve visibility if direct view is inadequate;

- ensuring that the lifting appliance is properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work;

- ensuring that the lifting appliance has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner before use;

- ensuring that the lifting appliance is only operated by persons who have received suitable training and are competent to operate the lifting appliance;

- ensuring that every worker in the operation zone for the lifting appliance is wearing a high visibility or reflective vest;

- setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for the use or testing of moving lifting appliance; and

- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference[1] :

- Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators
- Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites
- Safe Systems of Work
- Five Steps to Risk Assessment
- Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training

[1] Click to view documents

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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.