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

Work Safety Alert
Worker Struck by Overturned Excavator

1. Date of Accident : June 2026

2. Place of Accident : A foundation site

3. Summary :

While lifting a bundle of metal pipes, an excavator suddenly overturned, striking a nearby assisting worker with its bucket. The worker was rushed to hospital in an unconscious state and passed away later that day.

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

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

- ensuring that the excavator used for lifting operation is by design suitable for the purpose, and that a designated lifting point is available from the original manufacturer on its bucket, arm or boom for attaching of lifting gear. The manufacturer's manuals should be referred to in order to ascertain the excavator’s suitability for use in lifting operation;

- observing the relevant instructions, information, conditions and restrictions provided in the manufacturer’s manuals when performing lifting operation with an excavator suitable for the purpose;

- using only the manufacturer's designated lifting points on the excavator for lifting of load;

- positioning the excavator on solid and level ground, for an excavator with outriggers or extendable crawlers, fully extending them;

- ensuring that the excavator and the lifting gear used are not loaded beyond their safe working loads;

- taking steps to prevent the excavator from working or travelling on a slope exceeding maximum angle of inclination recommended by its manufacturer;

- adopting safety measures, as appropriate, such as leveling or compaction of ground, or provision of load-bearing supports, before operating or moving the excavator into position on slopes, rough terrain or soft ground for operation;

- taking measures to ensure that the operator does not operate the excavator on unstable surface;

- taking extreme caution when slewing the boom of the excavator to prevent overturning or tipping of the excavator on a slope;

- demarcating and fencing off the operation zone of the excavator 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 the excavator has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before use;

- setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for the operation of the excavator; 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

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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.

[1] Click to view documents