

ABOUT SAFETY TIME OUT

Safety Time Out (STO) is a planned event whereby companies take time off from their daily work routine to take stock of and review the existing workplace safety and health (WSH) systems and work processes or particular activity and thereafter implement necessary measures to keep safety practices in check and uphold good WSH standards. STO can be coordinated nation-wide or at sector specific in response to an emerging trend or a spate of accidents.

2 In a typical STO, the STO team will review site practices and risk assessments by:

- a) Assessing whether current WSH systems and procedures are in place or require improvements;
- b) Assessing the physical equipment or machineries are fit for the job;
- c) Assessing the personnel competency for the job or whether refresher training is required;
- d) Identifying possible systemic lapses in WSH system and processes;
- e) Identifying possible factors that, if not properly managed, may be contributing factors to accidents;
- f) Taking necessary measures to address the lapses identified; and
- g) Taking proactive measures to prevent accidents and losses.

3 Following the STO, employees will be briefed on the findings and any improvements that would be implemented.

4 The WSH Council has developed a basic STO checklist that helps to identify systemic lapses in WSH management system which can be found on the WSH Council's website at www.wshc.sg/safetytimeout

Safety Time Out Exercise for the Construction and Crane Industries (9 to 15 Mar 2015)

5 The WSH Council-led National Crane Safety Taskforce, The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL) and the Singapore Cranes Association (SCA) are concerned about the recent spate of workplace accidents involving cranes. Since the beginning of 2015, there were 5 workplace accidents related to crane activities. Most of these accidents happened in construction sites.

6 The National Crane Safety Taskforce, SCAL, SCA and all members are fully committed to keep our construction sites safe by conducting STO to ensure that the industry takes stock and implements the measures to ensure the workplaces are safe for our employees and the general public.

7 In view of the accidents, SCAL and SCA will take the lead to conduct a joint STO exercise from 9 to 15 Mar 2015 on crane activities, which cover the following areas:

- a) Ensure safe working condition of lifting equipment especially the tower and mobile cranes;
- b) Ensure the robustness of lifting plans; and
- c) Ensure the lifting team is informed and reminded of the hazards involve in lifting operations.

8 In particular, the Safety Time Out team will take a comprehensive review on their crane operating practices which includes (but not exhaustive) the following:

- a) Conduct visual inspection of the lifting equipment;
- b) Conduct checks on operations of lifting equipment and its safety devices;
- c) Review lifting plan;
- d) Address and share the findings from the exercise; and
- e) Refresher training of the lifting team, if necessary.