

27 April 2021, Ref: 2122006

Accident Notification: Worker struck by fallen excavator attachment

On 22 April 2021, a worker and an excavator operator were involved in the hacking of a precast concrete panel using an excavator fitted with a concrete breaker attachment. As steel frames were obstructing the concrete panel, the operator operated the excavator to lift them away. After the lifting, while the worker was unrigging the lifting gears from the excavator arm, the concrete breaker attachment suddenly detached and struck the worker. He was conveyed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

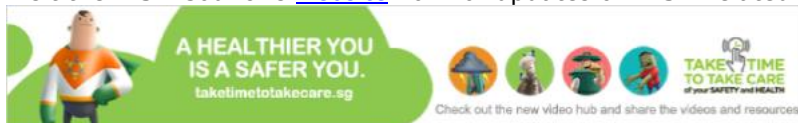
Employers, principals and occupiers must consider and implement applicable risk control measures, including:

- Using the excavator for lifting operation only if it has been certified as a lifting machine.
- Allowing only authorised and trained personnel to operate the excavator.
- Checking that lifting machines, lifting appliances and lifting gears have been examined and load tested by an authorised examiner according to MOM requirements prior to use.
- Ensuring that the lifting machine, lifting appliances and lifting gear are operated within their respective Safe Working Loads (SWL).
- Reviewing the design of the excavator operator cabin controls to ensure that the coupler mechanism (for securing or release of excavator attachments) cannot be accidentally activated.

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 23 Apr 2021. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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