

Worker struck by fallen excavator attachment

On 22 April 2021, a worker was killed after an excavator's concrete breaker attachment suddenly fell on him. This happened when the worker was unrigging lifting gears from the excavator arm.



Overview of the accident scene.

Recommendations

To prevent similar accidents, the WSH Council recommends that relevant stakeholders ensure:

- Only excavators certified as a lifting machine are used for lifting operations.
- Excavator attachments used are approved by the manufacturer.
- Method of securing the attachment to the excavator arm is safe and effective.
- Excavator attachment (e.g. bucket, concrete breaker) is installed and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Excavator pre-start checks (e.g. locking/safety pins, cabin controls, other safety features) has been carried out.
- Effective means of communication (e.g. walkie-talkies) has been provided to workers.
- Where possible, technology is employed to detect:
 - presence of excavator attachment locking pin;
 - presence of co-workers in the excavator working zone; and
 - adherence to safe working load

Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 21 May 2021. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please 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 any liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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