

17 June 2021, Ref: 2122021

Worker fell through opening at construction site

On 10 June 2021, a worker fell 40 metres to his death through a gap in the floor of a warehouse building under construction. The structure used to cover the gap gave way when the worker was crossing the structure. The worker was wearing a full body harness without a lanyard attached.



Overview of the accident scene.



Structure used to bridge the gap.

Recommendations

Such accidents can be prevented with the following measures:

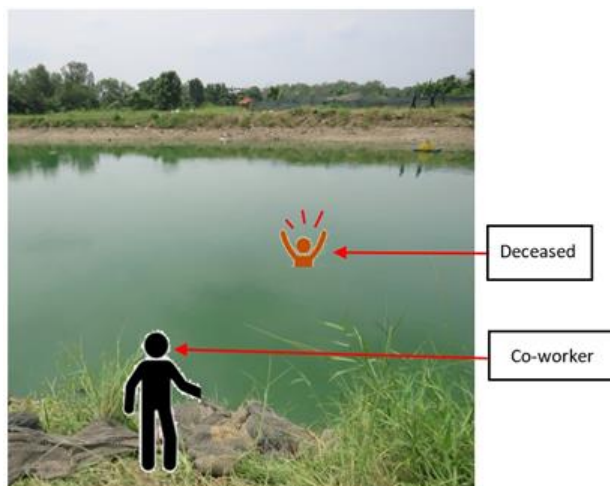
- Block up all sides of structures used to cover gaps (e.g. with hoarding) to prevent workers crossing through the structure.
- Place warning signs near structures used to cover gaps to alert workers of the fall hazard.
- Brief workers on the safe route(s) of access/egress and advise them to stay clear of danger zones.
- Equip each worker with fall protection equipment (e.g. full body harness with lanyard) and ensure that they are anchored when working at height.
- Establish a Fall Prevention Plan (FPP) and a Permit-To-Work (PTW) system for hazardous works at height.

For more information on establishing a FPP and a PTW system, refer to the WSH Council's Code of Practice for Working Safely at Height.

Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 15 June 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.

Worker drowned in a fish farm pond

On 11 June 2021, a worker drowned while he was harvesting fish in a fish farm. He was wading in the pond harvesting the fish while a co-worker was on the shore.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Such accidents can be prevented with the following measures:

- Workers who work in water, such as harvesting fish, must be qualified swimmers.
- Life jackets must be worn when working in or near water.

- Workers must check and be aware of the water depth.
- Life-saving equipment, such as life buoys and life lines, must be available on site.

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Forklift operator pinned by toppled goods

On 14 June 2021, a forklift operator was unloading palletised goods from a container using his forklift. The goods were double-stacked on the pallet and bundled using strapping tape.

With the palletised goods still on the forklift, the operator dismounted from the forklift, and was beside the goods when the goods toppled and pinned him to the floor.

The unconscious operator was later conveyed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Such accidents can be prevented with the following measures:

- Never stand near palletised goods that are above shoulder-height.
- Check that palletised goods are firmly secured to avoid them collapsing during loading or unloading.
- Position palletised goods across both forks properly to avoid them collapsing while on the forklift.

- Ensure the forklift operator is trained and competent to perform loading and unloading operations.
- Palletised goods should be moved individually.
- If pallets are double-stacked, consider moving them only if they are firmly secured, and with the load positioned evenly and stably on the forks.

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