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## **11 fatalities in February; WSH Council calls upon industry for a Safety Time-Out**

2021 saw 11 fatal workplace accidents occurring in the month of February alone, more than double as compared to the same month in 2020. Three cases were from the construction sector, three from manufacturing, two from logistics & transport, one from marine and two from other workplaces. Of the 11, three workers fell from height, four were caught between objects, three sustained extensive burnt injuries, and one was involved in a work-related traffic accident.

Preliminary investigations revealed that for majority of the cases, safety and health hazards were not identified as the risk assessments conducted at the workplaces were inadequate, and proper work methods were also not established before work commencement. Another common finding was related to untrained and unauthorised use of machinery, specifically forklifts and Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs). For the burnt injuries, preliminary investigations found that an explosion was caused by the accumulation of combustible dust in a confined environment.

Mr John Ng, Chairman of the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council expressed his concern, "I am gravely concerned with the spate of 11 fatal workplace accidents that is unprecedented. WSH ownership must be ingrained at every level from management to worker so that a culture of safe work practices can be inculcated at the workplace. I call on all employers to carry out a Safety Time-Out to take stock of the existing safety provisions and implement necessary control measures, and encourage every employee to report unsafe conditions and near-misses to prevent the next incident from occurring."

Find out how to conduct a WSH Risk Assessment to manage risks in your workplace [here](#).

Get more resources on:

- [how to prevent WSH risks](#)
- [how to prevent machine hazards](#)
- [how to work safely at heights](#)
- [safe use of forklifts](#)
- [WSH Guidelines on Flammable Materials](#)

## **Launch of CheckSafe e-Service on MOM Website**

The Ministry of Manpower has launched a new e-Service called 'CheckSafe' on 21 January 2021.

This online tool allows developers, contractors and members of the public to check and compare construction companies' safety track records, and to make more informed

selections of contractors and partners based on their Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) performance.

Scan the QR code below to start searching and comparing the WSH performance of companies.



For more information, click [here](#).

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## Tripartite Advisory on Mental Well-being at Workplaces

The Ministry of Manpower, National Trades Union Congress and Singapore National Employers Federation have jointly released the Tripartite Advisory on Mental Well-being at Workplaces. The Tripartite Advisory sets out practical guidance on measures that employers can adopt to support their employees' mental well-being, and provides resources that employers, employees and self-employed persons can tap into.

Key recommendations include:

- Appointing mental wellness champions to raise employees' awareness of mental well-being and mental health conditions;
- Providing access to counselling services such as Employee Assistance Programme;
- Training managers to spot signs of mental distress; and
- Recognising the need for employees to have adequate rest outside of work hours.

Read the Tripartite Advisory [here](#).

View the infographics on the recommendations [here](#).

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## Workshops

### WSH Conference: Enhancing WSH Resilience and Robustness in Construction

Organised by the BCA Academy and IOSH (Singapore), and supported by the Ministry of Manpower, this year's conference focuses on how the Construction industry has stayed resilient and robust during the pandemic and how companies have successfully managed WSH with strong leadership and the use of technology.

Date: 6-7 April 2021  
Time: 1pm - 5:30pm  
(6 April 2021)  
9am - 1pm  
(7 April 2021)  
Venue: Hosted online by BCA Academy from Singapore

Get more information [here](#).

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