

WSH Alert Accident Notification, 4 December 2020: Worker fell from height in a warehouse // Fatal accident during machine repair

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4 December 2020, Ref: 2021081

Accident Notification: Worker fell from height in a warehouse

On 1 December 2020, two workers were packing goods in a warehouse when one worker heard a loud thud and found the other lying on the ground facing up. The injured worker was conveyed to the hospital where he subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

Occupiers, employers and principals are reminded to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for all work activities in a warehouse or storeroom. Provide proper access to storage racks. Suitable access equipment (e.g. step platform, vertical personnel lift, reach truck) is necessary for safe access to goods placed at height. Remind workers not to gain access to goods stored at higher shelves by climbing on pallets of stored goods or stepping on lower shelving as these do not provide a firm footing and significantly raise the risk of a fall. Practise good housekeeping in the warehouse to ensure that goods can be stored for safe access and retrieval.

Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 4 December 2020. 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 any liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

Accident Notification: Fatal accident during machine repair

On 2 December 2020, two workers were repairing a machine when its platen suddenly descended on one of the workers. The worker was pronounced dead at the scene by attending paramedics.

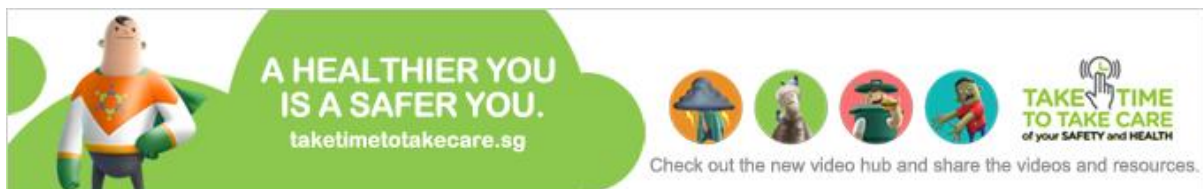
The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

Occupiers and employers undertaking similar work activities are advised to put in place suitable risk controls to protect workers during machine installation, repair, servicing and maintenance. Ensure that risk assessment has been carried out and safe work procedures for the task established, implemented and communicated prior to work commencement. Allow only authorised and competent personnel to carry out such tasks. Before working on the machine, it is critical that all hazardous energy sources (e.g. the stored potential energy in this case) are properly isolated and/or de-energised. Possible safeguards to prevent a worker's body from being caught in-between movable machine parts include the use of custom-designed props or a safety block. Advise workers on the safe work positions to adopt and remind them never to insert any part of their body inside a machine so long as there is a risk that machine parts can move during the assigned task.

Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 3 December 2020. 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 any liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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