

# SHOP OWNER SLIPPED IN THE KITCHEN AND DIED FROM BURN INJURIES

## Case brief

On 29 January 2019, the Deceased knocked against a portable gas burner as she slipped in the kitchen, causing oil in the wok on the stand to spill on her.

## The company involved

Lina Confectionery & Trading

## COMPANY FAILED TO HAVE RA AND SWP FOR ALL WORK ACTIVITIES

On the day of the accident, the Deceased was working alone in the kitchen of her confectionery shop. While she was walking towards the wok filled with the preheated oil, she slipped. As she fell, her leg knocked against a portable gas burner stand, causing the wok to slant and the pre-heated oil to spill onto her body and lower limbs. The Deceased suffered 80% burns and was conveyed to the hospital where she subsequently succumbed to her injuries on 21 April 2019. The Deceased's cause of death was certified as "sepsis following extensive burns".

## Investigations revealed that:

- i. The company did not have any Risk Assessment (RA) or Safe Work Practices (SWP) for its work activities, including the frying of the crackers using the portable gas burner.
- ii. The Deceased did not attend any safety- and health-related courses.
- iii. The Deceased was wearing non-slip resistant footwear, which was not suitable to be worn in the kitchen.

For failure to take measures to ensure the safety and health of the workers at work, the company had contravened section 12(1) of the WSH Act. However, no further action was taken against the company as the Deceased was its sole proprietor at the time of the accident.

