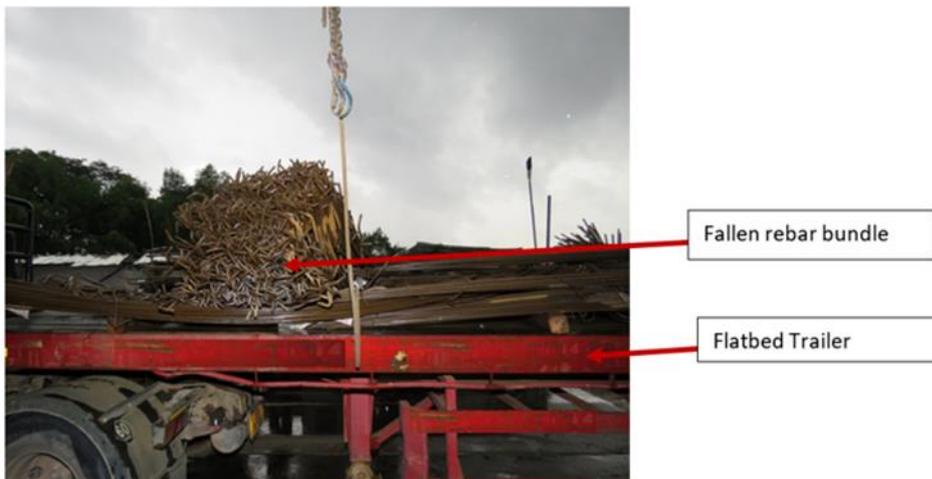


Worker pinned by fallen load during lifting operations

On 11 December 2021, a rigger cum signalman (worker) was pinned by a bundle of reinforcement bars (rebars) when the rigging of the rebar bundle failed and fell onto him. The worker had earlier completed his task of rigging the rebar bundle for unloading from a flatbed trailer and had signalled to the crane operator to start the lift. He was conveyed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

A lifting plan must be established and implemented for all crane lifting operations. Lifting operations can be hazardous without adequate planning and proper execution. To prevent accidents, consider implementing the following measures:

- **Proper rigging method:** Ensure that rigging methods are detailed in the lifting plan for the different types of loads to be lifted. The selected rigging method for the specific lift must be communicated to the lifting team. Use only proper lifting gears (e.g. chain sling, webbing sling) with a safe working load (SWL) greater than the weight of the load to be lifted.
- **Safe work position:** Instruct workers never to stand under a suspended load.
- **Work supervision:** Provide on-site supervision to ensure that the load has been properly rigged, workers are in safe positions, and that lifting operations are carried out according to the lifting plan.

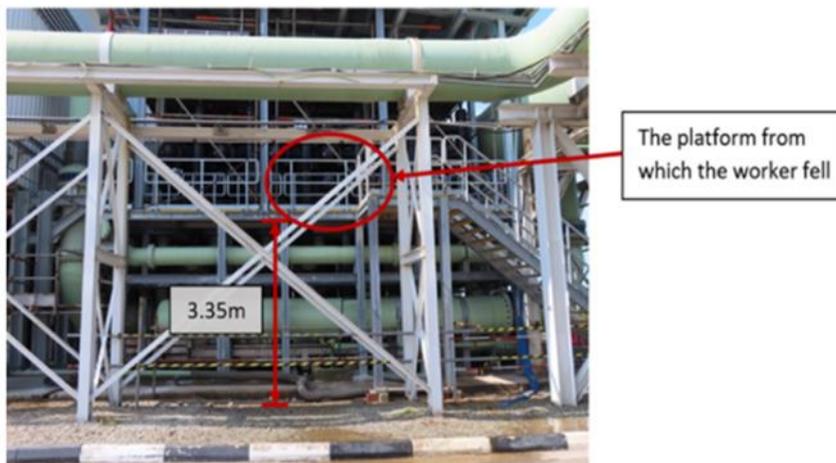
For more information, refer to WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations 2011 and WSH Council's [Code of Practice on Safe Lifting Operations in the Workplaces](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 13 December 2021. 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 liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

Worker injured after falling from work platform

A worker was standing on the second level of a work platform draining rainwater from a tarpaulin sheet, when he lost his balance and fell 3.35 metres to the ground. He was conveyed to the hospital for treatment and has since recovered.

The platform was unguarded (i.e. without railings) at the time of the accident, and the worker did not wear travel restraints.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Fall from height accidents can occur when working at locations with open sides. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Open side elimination:** Install guard rails at every work location where there is a fall risk.
- **Fall prevention and protection:** If guard rails cannot be installed at the platform, equip workers with a suitable travel restraint system so that they cannot get close to the open side(s). In cases where a worker could fall more than 5m, he should wear a fall arrest system.
- **Strict access control:** Prevent unauthorised access by cordoning off hazardous work areas using effective barricades and safety signs. Only persons aware of the on-site danger(s) and risk controls may be allowed to enter the hazardous work area (the platform in this case).
- **Permit-to-Work (PTW):** Implement a PTW system for all work at height locations where a worker could fall a distance of more than 3 metres.
- **Training and supervision:** Provide workers with safe work procedures, adequate training, and supervision so that the work can be carried out safely. This applies

also to non-core work activities like tarpaulin sheet installation/removal and draining of rainwater.

For more information, refer to WSH (Work at Heights) Regulations 2013 and WSH Council's [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#).

* 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 liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

The WSH Council reminds all to work safely and be vigilant so that you can return home safely to your loved ones, and enjoy the festive season.

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