

2  
September  
2022

# WSH ALERT

## FATAL ACCIDENT

### Rigger crushed by toppled load during lifting operations

On 26 August 2022, a lifting team was placing a concrete block into an excavated pit using a lorry crane. After the block was placed, a rigger entered the pit to remove the lifting gears from one of the two rigging points, when the block suddenly tilted and toppled onto him. The rigger died at the scene.



Concrete block  
(lifted upright  
post-accident)

Rigging point  
where the lifting  
gears were  
removed

Location of  
worker when the  
accident  
happened

Overview of accident scene.

## Recommendations

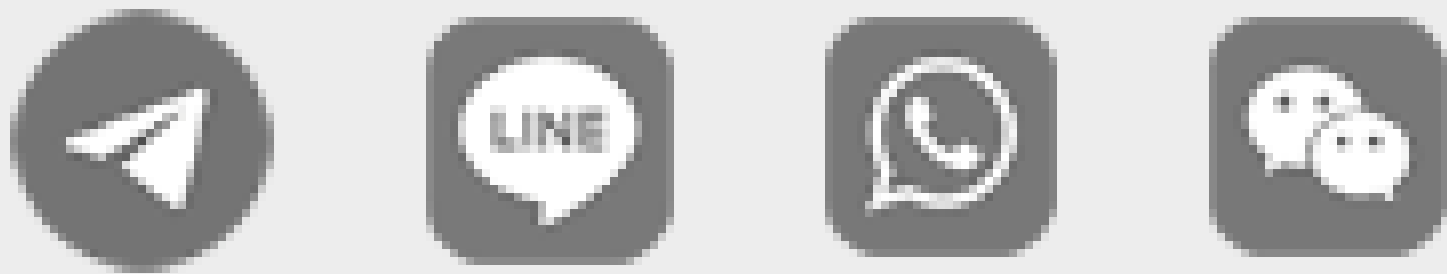
A lifting plan must be established and implemented for all lorry crane lifting operations. Lifting operations require an onsite hazard assessment, pre-work planning and careful execution as they are dangerous work activities. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Competent lifting team:** Confirm that all members of the lifting team have completed the necessary training for their respective role(s) (e.g. crane operator, lifting supervisor, rigger, signaller) before starting lifting operations.
- **Safe work procedure:** Before removing the lifting gears, check that the load is in a stable and secure position and ensure crane controls (whether manual or remote) are deactivated. This is to prevent accidental movement of the crane whilst the lifting gears are being removed. Crane controls may be reactivated only when all workers are in safe positions.
- **Work Supervision:** A lifting supervisor must be onsite to ensure that lifting operations are carried out according to the lifting plan and safe work procedures.
- **Effective communication:** Conduct toolbox briefings before each lifting operation. Lifting operations are to be carried out according to the instructions of the lifting supervisor. To avoid confusion, lifting team members must not act on their own or follow the instructions of other personnel not part of the lifting team.
- **Worker empowerment:** Encourage workers to contribute to accident prevention by speaking up should they spot an unsafe situation.

For more information, please refer to WSH Council's [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), [Code of Practice on Safe Lifting Operations in the Workplaces](#) and [WSH Guidelines on Safe Use of Lorry Cranes](#).

\* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 29 August 2022. 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.

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