

07  
June  
2022

# WSH ALERT

## FATAL ACCIDENT

### Worker died after being pinned under metal shaft

On 27 May 2022, a lorry loader (commonly known as “lorry crane”) toppled to its side while it was unloading a metal shaft from a trailer. Consequently, another metal shaft which was on the lorry crane bed, rolled off the side of the lorry crane and struck a worker standing between the lorry crane and trailer. The worker was rescued and sent to the hospital where he passed away.



Scene of the accident.

### Recommendations

Lorry cranes can topple during lifting operations, resulting in fatalities or injuries. Always identify the hazards and risks associated with lifting operations and put in place controls to eliminate or reduce the risks. Consider the following measures to prevent similar accidents:

- **Lifting Plan (LP):** Establish and implement a LP before starting lifting operations. The scope of the LP should include lifting equipment parameters like the Safe Working Load, load details, rigging method, position of the lifting equipment, and loading/unloading position.
- **Safe Working Load (SWL):** Ensure lorry crane operators read and understand the load capacity chart as it is important to know the crane’s SWL relative to the working radius to prevent overloading of the lorry crane. Lorry crane operators must also know the weight of the load to be lifted and proceed with the lift only if the weight of the load is less than the SWL.
- **Fully extend outriggers:** Fully extend and properly secure all lorry crane outriggers before starting the lift. Improper or non-full deployment of outriggers may result in lorry crane toppling due to instability.
- **Competent workers:** Select a trained and competent Lifting Team to carry out the lifting operation.
- **Safe work position:** Confirm all workers are in a safe position before starting lifting operations. Stop the lift once any worker comes into an unsafe position. Provide supervision throughout the lifting operation.
- **Secure loads:** Secure all loads to prevent them from rolling or falling off the vehicle.
- **Use crane safety technology:** Consider equipping the lorry crane with a Stability Control System (SCS) to ensure stability during lifting operations. An SCS will compute the allowable lifting capacity and safe working range for different outrigger extensions, and will automatically stop the lorry crane once the safety limits are crossed.

For more information, please refer to WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations 2011, WSH Council's [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 2 June 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.

**Workplace injuries tend to rise around this time of the year. Remain vigilant against risks and prevent accidents.**

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