

Safety & Health Alert No. 38/2018

Site Precautionary Measures for Typhoon

Date : 14 September 2018
Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

In accordance with the latest weather forecast, the super strong typhoon Mangkhut is approaching and may hit Hong Kong. Contractors are required to take all necessary precautionary measures and those stipulated under contract provisions as appropriate for site safety to minimize adverse impact of the typhoon. Contractors are strongly advised to take the following safety precautionary measures:

- A. Precautionary measures before typhoon
1. Ensure the stability of scaffolding, catch fan, formwork, nylon mesh, safety net, hoarding and temporary structure, and remove tarpaulin from scaffolding as appropriate to avoid adverse impact of strong wind;
 2. Remove loose materials near scaffolding and outdoor area and fix all loose things securely;
 3. Provide cover to slopework and excavation, and enough sandbags or similar protection along the top periphery of excavation to protect excavation from surface water runoff. Get enough sandbags to prepare for blocking any unintended surface water runoff out of the site;
 4. Adopt procedures and safety precautions recommended by the manufacturers of tower cranes, e.g. allowing the free movement of the jib, retract the trolley back to the mast, raise the hook to the highest position, etc.
 5. Implement safety precautions in respect of mobile cranes, e.g. raise the hook to its highest position, retract the jib to its shortest length and lower the jib to its lowest position.
 6. Cease work on external wall, lower and park gondolas to the lowest position securely.
 7. Check and clear any blockage in the site drainage system to ensure effective discharge of surface water run-off.

8. Stop unnecessary electricity supply and enhance protection to external electricity distribution board.
9. Check condition of existing trees on site and stabilize them as appropriate.
10. Update emergency contact list, alert all emergency team members, follow steps in emergency preparedness plan and provide personal protective equipment such as boots, and raincoats for workers on duty.
11. Close the site, cease all site work and evacuate workers upon hoisting of typhoon signal no.8.

B. Precautionary measures after typhoon

1. Inspect the site, report damages and repair damaged facilities back to safe condition prior to work commencement.
2. Arrange competent person to inspect and certify scaffoldings to ensure that they are in safe condition before use.
3. Arrange competent person to inspect and certify lifting appliances to ensure that they can function properly before use.
4. Arrange engineer to check temporary structure and soil condition of excavation to ensure the stability.
5. Check temporary electricity facility to ensure safe working condition.

The above precautionary measures are by no means exhaustive. For details, please refer to relevant legislation and guidelines, including but not limited to Factories and Industrial Undertakings Regulations, Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations, and publications of Labour Department such as Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather, Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety, Code of Practice for Safe Use and Operation of Suspended Working Platforms, Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety, Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes and Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes.

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Safety and Health Unit, Development and Construction Division, Housing Department at 2129 3269.