

Title: Site Safety Strategies for Capital Works New Works of the Hong Kong Housing Authority

Ms FUNG Yin-suen, Ada, BBS, JP
Former Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction):
Embracing the core values of caring
customer-focused, creative and committed
the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)
as a public housing provider
is committed to providing quality public housing
and housing management services
for families and people in need
We build and we care

Voice-over:
Site activities involve many high-risk operations
Given the use of heavy machinery
the high mobility of workers
and subcontracting system
a site management system is needed
for preventing accidents
HA emphasizes site safety
and requires its contractors to implement
site safety management systems
for keeping the accident rate
at not more than 9 accidents per 1 000 workers
and achieving the target of zero fatal accident

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Former Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction):
Firmly believing that ‘Safety First’
and prevention is better than cure
we have been enhancing site safety strategies
and cultivating a safety culture
through a three-pronged strategy
comprising a procurement strategy
and performance monitoring mechanism
with incentives and sanctions,
strengthened contract requirements
and activities on research
training and promotion.

Voice-over:
On procurement strategy and performance monitoring
HA has introduced contractors list management
preferential tender scoring and quarantine system.
We consider contractors’ past records
of serious accidents before awarding new contracts
and we continuously assess
the contractors’ safety performance through
Contractors’ Performance Assessment Scoring System
safety audit and surprise safety inspection
We issue alerts and warnings to contractors
based on their accident rates
and provide Safety Alert app
to Housing Department’s site staff
for close monitoring site safety

On strengthening specification requirements
our contractual provisions are often higher
than the legal requirement
We had used full-height steel gate
in lift shaft openings and introduced trade tests
before they became the law
The adoption of mechanisation and
prefabricated building lowers the risk of working at height
We adopt hard paving construction
and separate pedestrians from vehicles
For safe lifting operations
video surveillance and audio alarm system
are installed at lifting zones
and tower cranes are monitored
with computerised systems

Other measures include the Pay for Safety Scheme
Safe Working Cycle
restricting the tiers of subcontracting
the “P” and “N” Caring Programme
safety training for workers
limiting the service life of major plant
and the time for overhaul
use of light duty working platforms
wearing safety helmets with y-type chin straps
and reflective clothing
and covering protruding steel bars
Through the Safety Auditing System
and Pay for Safety Scheme
we encourage contractors to develop safety innovations
Contractors are also required to implement
healthcare plan and forbid smoking on site

Regarding activities on research
training and promotion
we have set up the Site Safety Subcommittee
covering management level and worker organisations
for enhancing the safety awareness in the industry
We formulate site safety strategies
and launch promotion activities such as seminars
forums on site safety
signing safety charters
publishing safety handbooks
providing safety training courses for works staff
setting up safety awards
and organising safety competitions
We also require contractors
to implement work safe behaviour programme
and safety climate index survey

HA requires contractors to adopt
Building Information Modelling
to enhance site planning, logistics arrangement
and let workers practise before works commencement

We have considered the workers’ safety
in future maintenance and property management

at the design stage

The revised Pictorial Guide

to Planning and Design for Safety

issued in 2017 helps designers avoid or reduce

foreseeable risks in the construction

and maintenance periods

In 1989, the accident rate of HA works was

206 accidents per 1 000 workers.

In 2016, the rates per 1 000 workers

were 6.8 accidents for HA new works contracts

and 1.5 accidents for HA maintenance works contracts

showing a drop of 95% and 99% respectively

both were lower than the average industry accident rate

of 34.5 accidents per 1 000 workers in the same period

No fatal accidents were recorded in HA sites in 2016

The figures have reflected the effectiveness of the site safety strategies

However, the booming construction industry

the new workers who are unfamiliar with site hazards

the aging workforce and

the tight supervisory resources of contractors still pose challenges to site safety

Ms FUNG Yin-suen, Ada, BBS, JP

Former Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction):

Site safety is a shared responsibility

Effective management by contractors

and subcontractors is essential

We will work hand in hand with the Government

the Construction Industry Council, Occupational Safety and Health Council

and industry stakeholders

to promote site safety and health

Remember safety first

let's work hard to enable workers

to come to work happily and return home safely