

Safety & Health Circular No. 22/2010

Case Study—Toppling of Precast Concrete Planter

Date: 3 December 2010

Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

Installation of precast building elements is a high-risk work activity. The following extract from Green Cross Magazine's May/June 2010 issue (ref: COPYRIGHT/404/2010-4469), highlights key preventative measures that can be taken to reduce such risks.

A. Prevention recommended

1. A work safety system for precast planter assembly should be provided and maintained. The system should include, but need not be limited to, the following:
 - a) A suitable and sufficient risk assessment should be conducted to identify all the potential hazards associated with the work prior to its commencement.
 - b) Proper and safe work procedures should be established and adequate steps be taken to ensure that they are followed strictly by all personnel concerned.
 - c) Work should be well-planned beforehand, with particular attention paid to the job nature and method(s) adopted.
 - d) An adequately trained and experienced person should be appointed to co-ordinate and oversee precast planter assembly work.
2. Sufficient safety information, training and supervision should be provided in respect of precast planter assembly work to ensure the health and safety of all workers involved.

B. Applicable legislation—Sections 6A(1), 6A(2)(a), 6A(2)(c) and 6A(3) of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance:

1. The proprietor of an industrial undertaking shall provide and maintain a system of work for precast planter assembly that is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to the health of all persons employed at the industrial undertaking.
2. Every proprietor of an industrial undertaking shall provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of all persons employed at the industrial undertaking.

Case study (available in Chinese only) can be downloaded through the link below:

<http://www.oshc.org.hk/download/publishings/1/2265/18.pdf>

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