सुरक्षा अलर्ट / SAFETY ALERT

OISD/SA/2026-27/MOLPG/08 **Date: 31.07.2026**

INTRODUCTION

Title: Fatal Fall While Unloading Materials from Builder's Material Hoist

Location: LPG Bottling Plant- Administrative Building

Activity: Construction Work – Material Handling at Height.

Loss/ Outcome: Fatality of One Contract Worker.

INCIDENT

On 25 May 2026 at around 09:49 hrs, a contract worker engaged in the construction of the first floor of an administrative building was unloading construction materials from a material hoist to the first-floor roof. During the unloading operation, the worker accidentally fell from the first-floor roof to the ground while unloading materials from a builder's material hoist through a temporary wooden plank.

The injured worker was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on 05 June 2026.

OBSERVATIONS

- A stationary builder's material hoist was installed approximately 0.67 m away from the building, necessitating the use of a temporary wooden plank to transfer materials between the hoist platform and the parapet wall of first-floor roof.
- The temporary wooden plank used for material transfer was unsecured and manually positioned during each unloading cycle, making it susceptible to displacement.
- The length of the wooden plank used was 1.05 m while the gap between the trolley platform and roof edge was 0.67 m. Therefore, the wooden plank length exceeded the gap between the roof edge and the hoist platform by a small margin/ buffer of 0.38m. The limited overlap for the wooden plank on either side of the gap, resulting in inadequate stability during material transfer.
- The plank had protruding nails on its top surface, creating a snagging and trip hazard. During unloading, the material bag snagged on protruding nails on the wooden plank, causing displacement of the unsecured plank.
- The hoist platform was not provided with side enclosures, guardrails, toe guards, exposing worker/ material to fall hazards.

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- The contract worker was not using a full-body safety harness or any fall-arrest system while carrying out work at height. CCTV review indicated that similar unsafe unloading practices without fall protection had been followed on previous working days also.
- A safety net was not provided below the work area to arrest a fall.
- The work permit was issued under "Others Category" instead of "Work at Height", resulting in omission of mandatory work-at-height safety checks.
- The HIRA and JSA did not identify the hazards associated with transferring materials between the material hoist platform and the first-floor roof using a temporary wooden plank, nor the risks of operating the material hoist without side enclosures.
- Toolbox talks did not specifically address the hazards and control measures related to the adopted material transfer method.
- The unsafe act of transferring materials through a temporary wooden plank and various other unsafe conditions had become the accepted method of work and continued without adequate supervision.
- Contractor and limited owner supervision failed to identify and eliminate the unsafe material transfer arrangement.
- The worker was engaged in work at height without verification of medical fitness and records of fitness assessment were not available.
- The contract worker engaged for the activity was 69 years old, exceeding the prescribed maximum age limit for engagement of contract labour.
- Access to the first-floor roof was through an unsecured portable ladder and the work area was not adequately barricaded.

ROOT CAUSE

- Unsafe method adopted for material transfer by using a temporary wooden plank between the material hoist platform and the first-floor roof.
- Failure of hazard identification and risk assessment with the temporary material transfer arrangement and the inadequately guarded material hoist.
- Inadequate supervision and monitoring by the contractor and owner representatives allowed the unsafe material transfer arrangement and unsafe work practices to continue without intervention.
- Standard builder's hoist safety features were not ensured and verification of workers' medical fitness and compliance with the prescribed age limit was not carried out.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Builder's hoists used for material handling shall be of adequate capacity and shall comply with the requirements for construction, safety, performance, operation and testing specified in IS 12466:2012, OISD-GDN-192 and OSHA 29 CFR 1926.552. Use of temporary removable wooden planks for access or material transfer at height shall be prohibited. Hoists shall be equipped with essential safety features such as platforms with enclosures.
- Workers exposed to fall hazards shall use full-body safety harnesses connected to suitable anchorage points/ lifelines/ fall-arrest systems. Suitable guardrails, mid-rails, toe boards, and edge protection shall be installed wherever personnel are exposed to fall hazards. Safety nets shall be provided wherever there is a risk of falls and where elimination of the hazard is not feasible.

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- For works involving the use of builder's material hoists, the HIRA and JSA shall comprehensively identify and assess hazards associated with material handling and lifting operations, access arrangements between the hoist and the building/structure, transfer of materials at landing points and work-at-height activities. Risk mitigation measures and safe work procedures shall be identified and implemented prior to commencement of the work.
- All work-at-height activities shall be carried out through a valid Work-at-Height Permit. Compliance with the conditions specified in the permit shall be verified at the worksite before commencement of the job and ensured throughout the execution of the work.
- Toolbox talks shall specifically address the hazards, controls and emergency response requirements associated with the material hoist activities.
- Only medically fit personnel shall be deployed for work at height and relevant medical fitness records shall be maintained.
- Training on safe construction practices, work-at-height requirements, permit-to-work and builder's hoist safety shall be conducted for all permit holders, supervisors and contractor personnel.
- Continuous supervision and monitoring of builder's hoist operations and work-at-height activities shall be ensured throughout job execution.
- Introduce a mandatory pre-use inspection checklist for builder's hoists, access arrangements, ladders, guardrails, safety nets and fall protection systems before each shift.

Builder's material hoist

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General view of the worksite

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