

A WORKER WAS STRUCK TO DEATH BY WIRE ROPE OF LIFT AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN ADMIRALTY

On 18 December 2025, a worker was struck by an related component during the wire rope replacement work. The worker was certified dead the following day. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Failure to keep away from the danger zone with a striking hazard of lift wire rope and its elements.
2. Failure to follow the lift manufacturer's recommended procedures for the replacement of wire rope.
3. Failure to provide necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to the workers concerned.
4. Failure to implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that workers strictly comply with relevant safe working procedures.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks of striking by wire rope and its elements; and **develop safe working procedures**.
2. Ensure that only **competent workers possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience** are employed to carry out the lift works.
3. Ensure that lift works are conducted safely under the **immediate supervision of competent person** by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to the relevant work.
4. **Post warning notices** at the lift entrance, lift car and machine room.
5. The **main switch of the lift should be turned off, locked out and tagged out**. Proper warning notices – "lift is out of service" should also be posted at prominent positions so as to avoid any disturbances caused by the persons in the building intending to use the lift.
6. A **sufficient number of Lift Workers should be assigned** to perform the wire rope replacement work (e.g. at least FOUR Lift Workers are normally required for the replacement of main hoisting ropes as recommended).
7. Suitable measures should be put in place to **prevent disconnected or dismantled ropes from falling accidentally**.
8. Ensure the safety of rope lifting or lowering work. Where retrieving or hoisting of ropes is in progress, **Lift Workers should not be allowed to stay inside the lift pit**.
9. Check and ensure the wire rope and its associated elements have been **securely installed in accordance with the manufacturer manual**.
10. Check and **ensure the proper positioning of the rope on pulley grooves** with rope tension evenly distributed among all ropes; and should check that the rope guard has been reinstated before lift operation is resumed.
11. **Ensure that all workers involved have access to the manufacturer manual or relevant information**, possess adequate working knowledge of the wire rope replacement work, and are fully aware of the hazards involved in the process.
12. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary **safety information, instructions and training**, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures.



CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

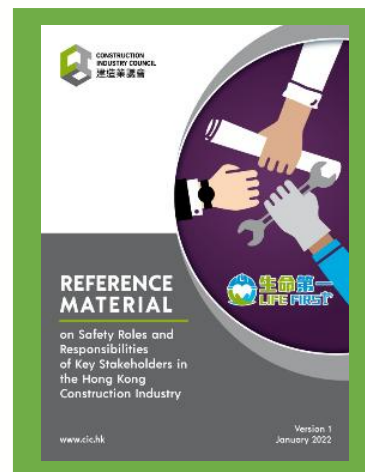
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the design stage, the work team should take into accounts the related safety measures prior to the commencement of lift works, establish and implement a permit-to-work system to monitor high risk works.
- During the construction stage, the work team should properly plan and coordinate the lift works, to prevent incompatible work activities being carried out at the same time inside the lift shaft.
- The work team shall provide communication equipment to relevant parties and maintain effective communication.
- Workers should follow to the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference Information



Guidelines on Safety
of Lift Shaft Works:
Volume 3 - Throughout the
Occupation Stage of Building



Reference Material on Safety
Roles and Responsibilities of
Key Stakeholders in the Hong
Kong Construction Industry



Please Click the Images



Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects. The CIC (including its members and employees) will not accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of or failure to use this message. For enquiries, please contact 2100 9000.