

Annual Report on Accident Statistics and Analyses for Public Works Contracts 2025

This report summarizes the accident statistics and analysis of the accidents occurred in public works contracts in 2025.

Accident Statistics (Appendices A to F)

2. Some key accident statistics and their trends are summarized below –

	Key Statistical Data	Remarks
(a)	Accident rate (fatal + non-fatal)	The accident rates for 2024 and 2025 were 0.16 and 0.13 accidents per 100 000 man-hours worked (or equivalent to 5.8 and 4.8 accidents per 1 000 workers per year respectively). A decrease of around 20% was observed.
(b)	No. of reportable accidents (fatal + non-fatal)	The total numbers of reportable accidents for 2024 and 2025 were 237 and 189 respectively. A decrease of around 20% was observed. The numbers of man-hours worked for 2024 and 2025 were 146,236,972.7 and 141,836,191.5 respectively. A decrease of around 3% was observed.
(c)	Fatal accidents	Two fatal reportable accidents occurred in public works contracts in 2025. A total of 21 fatalities in various industrial accidents were recorded in the whole construction industry in 2025.

3. The brief account of two fatal accidents happened under public works contracts are given below –

Date of Accident	Accident Nature	Brief Description of Accident
27 July 2025	Trapped in or between objects	While two workers were engaged in lift work inside a common lift shaft of a building under construction, one of the lift cars suddenly descended and consequently trapped one of the workers who was working underneath. The worker was certified dead later in hospital on the same day. The accident happened under ArchSD Contract No. SS F501 – Design and Construction of Redevelopment of Queen Mary Hospital, Phase 1 – Main Works at Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong.

Date of Accident	Accident Nature	Brief Description of Accident
22 November 2025	Contact with moving machinery or object being machined	While a worker was operating a pedestal-type concrete coring machine to drill a hole on a wall, his clothing suddenly entangled with the revolving drill bit, resulting in strangulation. He was rushed to hospital and passed away later on the same day. The accident happened under DSD Contract No. DC/2019/09 – Provision of Village Sewerage in Sai Kung.

4. The accident rates of Works Departments in 2025 are summarized below –

Works Departments	No. of Fatal Accident	Accident Rates (Fatal + Non-fatal)	
		No. of Accidents per 100 000 man-hours worked	No. of Accidents per 1 000 workers per year
ArchSD	1	0.23	8.3
CEDD	0	0.08	2.7
DSD	1	0.11	3.8
EMSD	0	0.09	3.2
HyD	0	0.11	4.1
WSD	0	0.02	0.6
Overall	2	0.13	4.8

Note: The accident rate limit set by DEVB with effect from 1 January 2025 is 0.30 accidents per 100 000 man-hours worked (or equivalent to 11 accidents per 1 000 workers per year).

5. The severity rates (in terms of number of man-days lost per 100,000 man-hours worked) for 2024 and 2025 were 40.4 and 42.2 respectively. A slight increase of 4% was observed.

Accident Analyses

6. The accident analyses for the following aspects are given in **Appendices G** to **O** of this Report respectively. Key findings are summarized below.

(a) Types of Contracts (**Appendix G**)

The three types of contracts having the largest increase in accident rates from 2024 to 2025 are listed below –

Types of Contracts	Accident Rate (No. of accident per 1 000 workers per year)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Slope Works	3.5	2.1	6.3	4.2 (200.0%)
Site Formation	4.1	2.2	3.7	1.5 (68.2%)
Other Specialist Works	5.4	6.2	8.1	1.9 (30.7%)

The accident rate under “Slope Works” contracts in 2025 increased substantially as compared with 2024. Works Departments overseeing these contracts should step up the supervision to these works contracts in every aspect to prevent further deterioration of safety performance. Project teams, resident site staff and contractors are also appealed to actively attend to and participate in site safety matters of these contracts.

(b) Types of Accidents (Appendix H)

The four most common types of accidents are listed below –

Types of Accidents	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Slip, Trip or Fall On Same Level	60 (25.1%)	61 (25.7%)	46 (24.3%)	-15 (-24.6%)
Injured Whilst Lifting or Carrying/ Manual Lifting/ Manual Handling/ Handling Without Machinery	35 (14.6%)	29 (12.2%)	24 (12.7%)	-5 (-17.2%)
Hand Tool Accident	13 (5.4%)	16 (6.8%)	21 (11.1%)	5 (31.3%)
Struck By Moving or Falling Object	26 (10.9%)	28 (11.8%)	18 (9.5%)	-10 (-35.7%)

Accidents related to “Slip, Trip or Fall On Same Level” and “Injured Whilst Lifting or Carrying/ Manual Lifting/ Manual Handling/ Handling Without Machinery” remain the top two types accidents in the past three years, which account for around 35% of the total number of accidents. In addition, it is noted that there is an increase in “Hand Tool Accident”. However, the accidents were not related to work monitored by Smart Site Safety System. Works Departments are requested to devise effective and targeted measures to further reduce the number of accidents, in particular for the above top three types of accidents. Works Departments should also explore with contractors the possibility of mitigating the safety hazards by adoption of robotics, advanced construction methods and innovative technologies. Moreover, Works Departments and their contractors should attempt to maintain a good housekeeping on construction sites.

(c) Trades of Workers (Appendix I)

The four most common trades involved in the accidents are listed below –

Trades of Workers	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Labourer	101 (42.3%)	108 (45.6%)	82 (43.4%)	-26 (-24.1%)
Carpenter (formworker)	28 (11.7%)	28 (11.8%)	17 (9.0%)	-11 (-39.3%)
Rigger / Metal Formwork Erector	14 (5.9%)	9 (3.8%)	9 (4.8%)	0 (0%)
Bar Bender and Fixer	8 (3.4%)	10 (4.2%)	8 (4.2%)	-2 (-20.0%)

“Labourer” remained the top-ranked trade commonly involved in the accidents since 2018. More safety briefings or toolbox talks should be provided to workers, in particular the aforementioned trades of workers, for enhancing their safety awareness. In addition, for those skilled workers, contractors should arrange those workers to attend the relevant Safety Training for Construction Workers of Specified Trade (“Silver Card Course”) pursuant to the provisions in public works contracts. As noted in Appendix I, some of the accidents involved management or supervisory staff. Management staff and supervisory staff should be arranged to timely attend the prescribed safety training and the respective refresher courses as specified in public works contracts to enhance their safety knowledge and awareness.

(d) Natures of Injury (Appendix J)

The five most common natures of injury are listed below –

Natures of Injury	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Fracture	74 (26.8%)	92 (33.7%)	65 (29.6%)	-27 (-29.3%)
Contusion & Bruise	62 (22.5%)	48 (17.6%)	42 (19.1%)	-6 (-12.5%)
Laceration and Cut	33 (12.0%)	38 (13.9%)	39 (17.7%)	1 (2.6%)
Sprain/ Strain/ Twist	35 (12.7%)	26 (9.5%)	25 (11.4%)	-1 (-3.8%)
Crushing	17 (6.2%)	17 (6.2%)	10 (4.6%)	-7 (-41.2%)

“Fracture”, “Contusion & Bruise”, “Laceration and Cut”, “Sprain/ Strain/ Twist” and “Crushing” were the most five common natures of injury in the past years, accounting for more than 80% of the total number of accidents. Work procedures and system of work should be formulated and safe working environment, suitable tools and machinery should be provided for carrying out the works, taking cognizance of the above findings.

(e) Parts of Body Injured (Appendix K)

The three most common body parts injured in the accidents are listed below –

Parts of Body Injured	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Finger	65 (23.6%)	66 (24.2%)	59 (26.8%)	-7 (-10.6%)
Back	31 (11.2%)	23 (8.4%)	22 (10.0%)	-1 (-4.3%)
Ankle	15 (5.4%)	19 (7.0%)	18 (8.2%)	-1 (-5.3%)

“Finger” and “Back” remained the most two common part of body injured for the accidents in the past years. Proper personal protective equipment and sufficient training and instruction should be provided to workers to ensure their safety at work.

(f) Agents Involved (Appendix L)

The four most common agents involved in the accidents are listed below –

Agents Involved	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Floor, Ground, Stairs or Any Working Surface	45 (17.4%)	48 (19.5%)	38 (19.1%)	-10 (-20.8%)
Material / Product Being Handled or Stored	41 (15.9%)	41 (16.7%)	32 (16.1%)	-9 (-22.0%)
Portable Power or Hand Tools	18 (7.0%)	25 (10.2%)	29 (14.6%)	4 (16%)
Ladder or Working At Height	6 (2.3%)	11 (4.5%)	12 (6.0%)	1 (9.1%)

“Floor, Ground, Stairs or Any Working Surface” and “Material / Product Being Handled or Stored” were the two most common types of agents involved in the accidents in past years. In addition, there is an increase in accidents involving “Portable Power or Hand Tools”. Extra efforts should be spent on improving this area.

(g) Unsafe Actions (Appendix M)

The five most common unsafe actions leading to accidents are listed below –

Unsafe Actions	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Lapse of Attention	87 (31.2%)	92 (33.7%)	82 (36.9%)	-10 (-10.9%)
Adopting Unsafe Position or Posture	44 (15.8%)	33 (12.1%)	25 (11.3%)	-8 (-24.2%)
Failure To Secure Objects	9 (3.2%)	18 (6.6%)	13 (5.9%)	-5 (-27.8%)
Use Unsafe Equipment/ Use Equipment Unsafely	11 (3.9%)	10 (3.7%)	13 (5.9%)	3 (30.0%)
Use Unsuitable Access/ Failure To Use Access	13 (4.7%)	14 (5.1%)	13 (5.9%)	-1 (-7.1%)

“Lapse of Attention” and “Adopting Unsafe Position or Posture” were the two most common type of unsafe actions in past years. In addition, there is an increase in accidents involving “Use Unsafe Equipment/ Use Equipment Unsafely”. Contractors are requested to provide sufficient information and instructions to workers so that they would stay vigilant in the work place.

(h) Unsafe Conditions (Appendix N)

The three most common unsafe conditions involved in the accidents are listed below –

Unsafe Conditions	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Unsafe Process or Job Methods	35 (12.9%)	32 (11.8%)	36 (16.7%)	4 (12.5%)
Improper Procedure	33 (12.1%)	31 (11.4%)	28 (13.0%)	-3 (-9.7%)
Lack of Warning System	9 (3.3%)	12 (4.4%)	18 (8.4%)	6 (50.0%)

The above three types of unsafe conditions accounted for about 40% of the total number of accidents, which showed that the unsafe conditions involved in accidents varied substantially. In addition, there is an increase in accidents involving “Lack of Warning System”. Works Departments should closely monitor contractors’ performance and take prompt actions to rectify any unsafe actions or conditions observed on site. Routine safety inspections by the project teams, site supervisory staff and surprise audits by the Departmental Safety and Environmental Advisory Units or cross-team audits by independent teams would be the possible actions to identify the malpractice and deficiencies in the working environment and safety management system. In addition, resident site staff and contractors should actively carry out site inspections with a view to identifying potential safety hazards/malpractices and implement enhancement measures as necessary. Task-specific safe working procedures, taking cognizance of the actual needs and circumstances of the site, should be formulated and duly implemented. Reviews of these task-specific safe working procedures should also be carried out regularly. Furthermore, CCTV and body worn video cameras could be adopted by frontline site personnel with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and quality of site supervision.

(i) Personal Factors (Appendix O)

The distributions of accidents arising from personal factors are given below –

Personal Factors	No. of Accidents (% of total no. of accidents)			
	2023	2024	2025	Changes between 2024 & 2025
Carelessness / Not Concentrate	145 (50.7%)	166 (61.0%)	129 (58.4%)	-37 (-22.3%)
Incorrect Attitude / Motive	33 (11.5%)	28 (10.3%)	29 (13.1%)	1 (3.6%)
Lack Of Knowledge or Skill	32 (11.2%)	25 (9.2%)	24 (10.9%)	-1 (-4.0%)

The number of accidents associated with “Carelessness / Not Concentrate” was the highest in past years. More than half of the total number of accidents were arising from this personal factor. Contractors should strengthen the workers’ safety awareness and attitude through training including briefings and toolbox talks.

7. To maintain the continuous improvement in site safety, Works Departments are recommended to pay particular attention to the following aspects –

- (i) ensuring Smart Site Safety System (4S) is duly implemented on site. Regular review on adequacy and comprehensiveness of 4S should be carried out (including, but not limited to having reviews during monthly Site Safety Management Committee meetings);
- (ii) adopting CCTV covering all site areas and body worn video cameras during site inspection for enhancing the effectiveness and quality of supervision;
- (iii) promoting workers’ safety awareness in lifting or carrying, against fall from height, to prevent struck by falling or moving objects, and to prevent slip, trip and fall on same level;
- (iv) enhancing site cleanliness and tidiness;
- (v) providing sufficient instruction, training and supervision to workers to ensure their safety at work in particular for working at height, lifting and confined spaces work;
- (vi) providing suitable fall arresting equipment e.g. safety harness, fall arrester and independent lifeline connected to a secured anchorage to workers who are at risk of falling from height;

- (vii) maintaining an effective monitoring system to ensure workers and supervisory staff (both RSS and in-house staff) make full and proper use of personal protective equipment and safety equipment;
- (viii) enforcing the requirement to conduct risk assessment, and/or permit-to-work system, for all high-risk activities before commencement of the work;
- (ix) maintaining a safe system of work including proper site layout and work plan to segregate workers from construction plant and vehicles;
- (x) tightening up the control on the use of ladders for work purpose (including straight ladders, step ladders, A-ladders, folding ladders or other ladders alike) on public works construction sites. Ladders shall be prohibited for admission to all public works sites (including those sites and venues under the possession of the Contractor temporarily, or access / fenced off by the Contractor temporarily for carrying out maintenance or upgrading works) for work purpose except under very exceptional circumstances;
- (xi) providing adequate safety training, briefings or toolbox talks to workers, especially sharing the lessons learnt in the serious incidents, for preventing recurrence and raising their safety awareness and working attitude;
- (xii) arranging management staff and site supervisory staff of the project teams, resident site staff and contractors to timely attend the prescribed safety training and the respective refresher courses as appropriate to enhance their safety knowledge and awareness;
- (xiii) providing adequate supervision, surprise check and daily review to the construction activities, especially the high-risk construction activities, to ensure the works are carried out in accordance with the approved method statement and statutory requirements;
- (xiv) providing sufficient information and instruction to workers and paying particular attention to the workers' misbehaviours during safety inspection and supervision on site. Any unsafe actions or posture observed on site should be stopped immediately; and
- (xv) checking of completeness of Independent Checking Engineer's design certificates and as-built certificates for the detailed design and method statements of temporary works before loading, and statutory form(s) for temporary works/scaffolding/working platform.

8. Apart from the analyses given in this report, Works Departments are recommended to carry out further detailed analyses of the accidents under their purview, with a view to developing targeted safety measures and programme for further improvement.

Works Branch
Development Bureau
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Attachments:

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Title</u>
A	Accident Rates for Public Works Contracts and the Construction Industry from 2016 to 2025
B	Chart of Yearly Accident Rates for Public Works Contracts and the Construction Industry from 2016 to 2025
C	Chart of Monthly Average Accident Rates for Public Works Contracts from January 2016 to December 2025
D	Number of Accidents for Public Works Contracts with Breakdown by Works Departments from 2016 to 2025
E	Accident Rates for Public Works Contracts with Breakdown by Works Departments from 2016 to 2025
F	Severity for Public Works Contracts with Breakdown by Works Departments from 2021 to 2025
G	Accident Rates for Public Works Contracts from 2016 to 2025 Analyzed by Types of Contracts
H	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Types of Accident
I	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Trades of Workers
J	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Natures of Injury
K	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Parts of Body Injured in Accidents
L	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Agents Involved in Accidents
M	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Unsafe Actions Involved in Accidents
N	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Unsafe Conditions Involved in Accidents
O	No. of Accidents for Public Works Contracts from 2021 to 2025 Analyzed by Personal Factors Involved in Accidents