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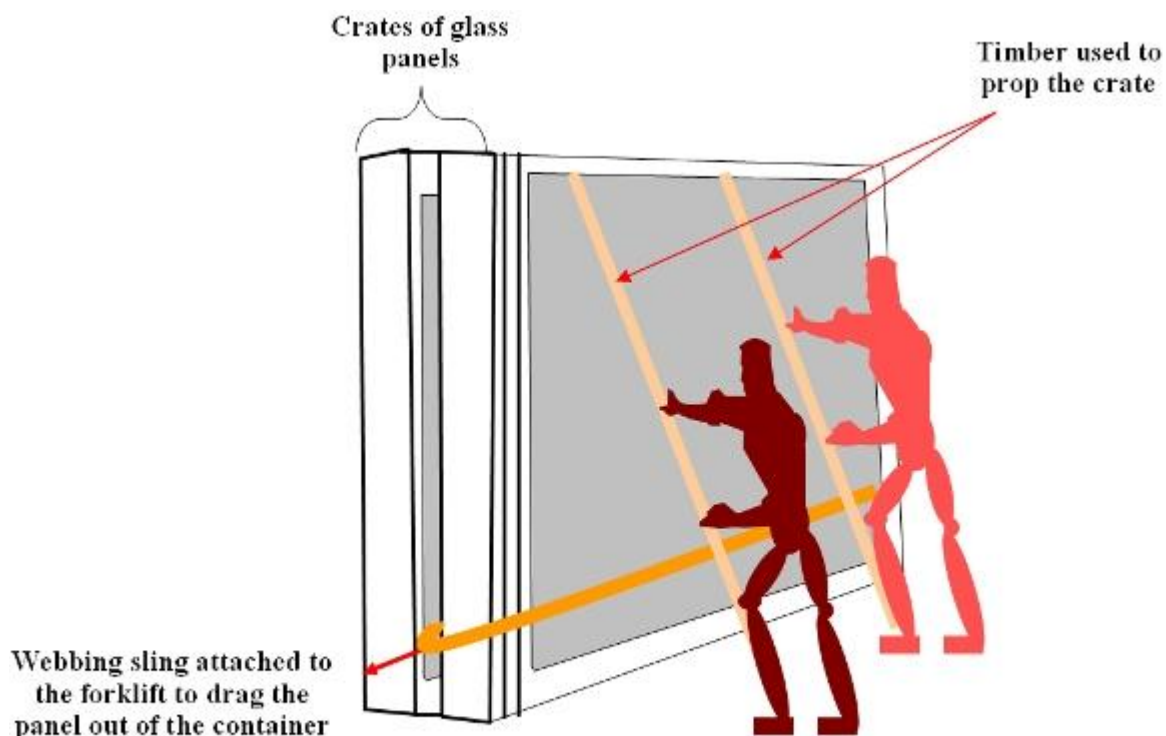
## Worker Pinned Under Toppled Crate Of Glass Panels

### Incident

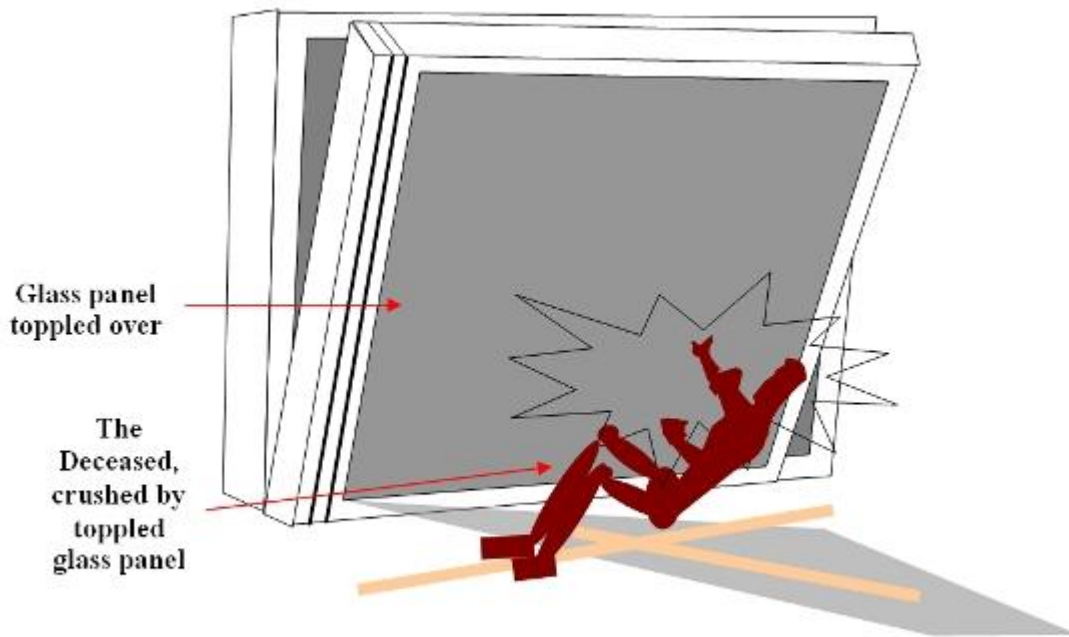
In July this year, three workers were unloading crates of glass panels from a container within the factory premises. The crates were placed vertically within the container. During unloading, a forklift was used to drag the individual crates out, one at a time, by pulling on webbing slings tied to the crates, while two workers used pieces of timber to keep the crates in a vertical position (diagram 1).

In order to hold the timber supports in place, the two workers had to be on the inside of the container as the crates were being dragged out. The incident occurred when the crate that was being dragged out suddenly collapsed onto a worker and pinned him down (diagram 2).

The worker was pronounced dead at the scene of the incident (diagram 3). The other co-worker managed to escape unhurt.



**Diagram 1** The crates were placed vertically within the container, and propped up by pieces of timber.



**Diagram 2** Crate suddenly gave way and glass panel collapsed onto the Deceased and pinned him down (illustration 2).



**Diagram 3** The scene of the accident.

### Recommendations\*

1. Before the start of any work, always conduct a risk assessment to identify the hazards and the risks involved. Where possible, the hazards should be eliminated and establish suitable control measures for the residual risks to do the work safely.
2. Review the work process to eliminate the need for workers to manually handle the glass panels during the loading and unloading process. If this is not practicable, safe work procedures (SWP) must be established to address how the workers shall carry out the work safely. Amongst others, workers should position themselves at the ends of the glass crates and not in front or at the sides of the glass crates. This is to prevent the crates from collapsing onto the workers.
3. Provide adequate training and supervision of the workers so that they can carry out the work properly and safely.

4. Implement a proper system for storing the glass panels safely in the container (e.g. using rack system, chocks and bracing bars) to prevent the glass from falling during unloading. The system must also take into consideration, amongst others, the safe loading/unloading process, such as the use of crane to assist with large and heavy glass crates.

5. Forklifts are primarily designed to lift and carry loads. If forklifts have to be used to grab and remove glass panels, suitable attachments such as clamps for grabbing and holding must be fitted to perform the work properly and safely.

### Further Information

1. SINGAPORE STANDARD CP 30 : 1985 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR Safe Loading On Vehicles.

2. SINGAPORE STANDARD CP 101 : 2004 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR Safe Use of Powered Counterbalanced Forklift.

3. Risk Assessment Guidelines available [here](#)

4. Occupation Safety and Health Technical Advisory. Safe Use of Forklift available [here](#)

\* Please note that the information provided is not exhaustive and for the benefit of enhancing workplace safety and health so that a similar recurrence may be prevented. The information provided is not to be construed as implying any liability to any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations of the reader of WSH Alert under the law."



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