

Dear Chairman and Members of the WSH Council (Construction and Landscape) Committee,

As you would know, we have had five workplace incidents resulting in seven deaths in the month of June. This brings the total number of workplace fatalities to 21 this year, compared with 18 over the same period last year. While the overall number of workplace fatalities are not significantly more than in 1H2025, we would like to alert industry and partners to heighten vigilance and strengthen workplace safety measures to prevent further injuries and loss of life.

In view of the recent fatalities, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) with support from the WSH Council will be taking the following measures:

**1. Nation-wide safety time out (STO) for two weeks, starting today (26 June 2026)**

- Employers should use the Safety Time-Out to review work processes, reinforce risk controls, engage workers and supervisors on workplace risks, and address safety gaps where necessary.
- Attention should be paid to vehicle-related activities and individual worker lapses, and immediate response following an accident so that appropriate rescue or medical assistance can be rendered to the victim.

**2. MOM will also put in place the following measures:**

- Increase the composition fine quantum for workplace safety offences detected during inspections from **\$2,000 to \$3,000** for first-time offences, with higher composition fines applying for repeat or more serious offences
- Increase the minimum duration of Stop-Work Orders (SWO) from **5 weeks to 8 weeks** for companies with workplace safety lapses warranting a SWO
- **Debar companies from hiring new migrant workers for 3 months** in egregious cases involving serious workplace safety lapses resulting in fatal or serious accidents.

Along with the factsheet, the WSH Council office has prepared an advisory and a poster (attached here) advising companies and workers to watch out for risks in routine work.

We propose to amplify this call with our partners. We seek your support to rally your networks to participate in the STO and share the attached advisory/ poster with them. We will also be sharing with other TAC partners, individual unions and SISO. The MOM social media posts and press release are also linked below for your ease of reference and sharing with your networks.

- MOM's [Press release](#)
- MOM's [LinkedIn](#)/[Facebook](#) posts

Thank you for your support!

Regards,

Muhammad Hafiz

**Muhammad Hafiz bin Md Jamil**  
**Senior Manager**

**Industry Development (Built Environment)**

Workplace Safety and Health Council [wshc.sg](http://wshc.sg) . [Facebook](#) . [LinkedIn](#) . [YouTube](#) . [Personal Data Policy](#)

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**Vision: Healthy Workforce, Safe Workplace Mission: To build a healthy workforce and safe workplace by engaging communities to enhance capabilities and embrace best practices.**



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## **Watch Out for Risk in Routine Work**

In June 2026, five workplace accidents resulted in seven fatalities. This brings the total number of workplace fatalities to 21 so far this year, compared with 18 over the same period last year. While the overall number of workplace fatalities have remained relatively stable, the WSH Council would like to alert the industry to heighten vigilance and strengthen workplace safety measures to prevent further injuries and loss of life.

To reinforce safe work practices, the Ministry of Manpower announced on 26 June the following measures:

- Nation-wide call for a voluntary Safety Time-Out
- Increased composition fines
- Increased minimum Stop-Work Order duration from five to eight weeks
- Debarment from hiring new migrant workers for three months for companies found with lapses resulting in fatal or serious accidents

The seven fatal cases occurred across different industries and work activities, including platform work, boat operations, loading/unloading and maintenance works (refer to Annex). Although the circumstances differed, they share a common lesson: workplace accidents can happen not only during high-risk operations, but also while carrying out routine and repetitive work. Loss of life could have been prevented if simple safety steps were followed, such as:

- Maintaining a proper lookout when operating machinery or vehicles;
- Wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment;
- Securing of vehicle parking brakes before alighting; and
- Ensuring machinery is fully de-energised before working on or nearby moving parts.

Routine work should never be taken for granted; familiarity should never lead to complacency. Lack of situational awareness, shortcuts or being distracted in day-to-day work can have serious consequences.

### **Shared Responsibilities of Companies and Employees**

Both employers and employees have a responsibility to uphold safety at work.

Employers should:

- Ensure workers only carry out work that they have been trained and authorised to perform.
- Conduct thorough briefings to workers on onsite risks and control measures in place before starting work.
- Ensure established safe work procedures are followed at all times and that safety measures are not bypassed or shortcuts taken, even for routine tasks.
- Implement and rehearse emergency response and evacuation plans.
- Ensure incidents are promptly escalated, e.g. to the safety officer, supervisors or emergency responders, where appropriate. Prompt action may save a life.

Employees should:

- Follow established safe work procedures at all times. Do not take shortcuts, even for routine tasks.
- Recognise that risks can arise during every stage of a work activity, including preparatory and supporting activities such as vehicle parking, housekeeping or equipment setup.
- Pause before starting work to assess whether conditions remain safe and whether any changes require additional precautions.
- Stay focused, do not be distracted and maintain situational awareness throughout tasks.
- Speak up and report to supervisors or relevant personnel if something does not seem right.

Employees play a critical role in safeguarding their own safety and that of their co-workers. The WSH Council urges employees to adopt the “**I CHOOSE SAFETY**” mindset and practise “**LOOK-THINK-DO**” before every task, whether routine or complex. Taking a moment to identify hazards, think through the work and carry it out safely can help prevent serious incidents.

**LOOK** out for danger

**THINK** of how you can protect yourself and others

**DO** your work safely

**Annex: Summary of Workplace Fatalities in June 2026**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Accident Description</b>	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>
1	6 June 2026	A delivery rider was riding his motorcycle when he collided into the rear of a stationary lorry that had broken down on the road.	1

2	12 June 2026	Three crew members drowned when the workboat they were on sank after it collided with a landing craft in the sea.	3
3	19 June 2026	A driver tried to stop his truck when it rolled down a slope. However, he was subsequently trapped between his truck and another stationary vehicle.	1
4	20 June 2026	A rigger was hit by an excavator arm while rigging bundles of reinforcement bars (rebar) for subsequent lifting on a trailer bed.	1
5	21 June 2026	A worker was crushed by the discharge gate of a concrete mixer unit which suddenly closed on him while he was doing maintenance work below the mixer.	1

## FACTSHEET

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### Nationwide Voluntary Safety Time-Out Among Enhanced Workplace Safety Measures

26 June 2026

1. Over the past four weeks, seven workers lost their lives in five workplace incidents across different sectors. The recent fatalities occurred across different industries and circumstances, and do not point to any single underlying cause. This brings the total number of workplace fatalities to 21 so far this year, compared with 18 over the same period last year. The close succession of incidents is a cause for concern and highlights the need for continued vigilance and adherence to workplace safety requirements.
2. To reinforce workplace safety standards and strengthen industry vigilance, with the support of MAST<sup>1</sup> agencies, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will implement a suite of enhanced workplace safety measures.

#### Nationwide Safety Time-Out

3. MOM will call for a nationwide voluntary Safety Time-Out for two weeks **starting today (26 June 2026)**. Employers should use the Safety Time-Out to review work processes, reinforce risk controls, engage workers and supervisors on workplace risks, and address safety gaps where necessary. Attention should be paid to vehicle-related activities and individual worker lapses, and immediate response following an accident so that appropriate rescue or medical assistance can be rendered to the victim.

#### Enhanced Enforcement Measures

4. MOM will maintain stepped-up inspections to ensure that workplace risks are being managed appropriately and that workplace safety requirements are complied with. To strengthen deterrence and accountability, MOM will also implement the following measures:

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<sup>1</sup> The Multi-Agency Workplace Safety and Health Taskforce (MAST) was formed in September 2023 to strengthen workplace safety and health outcomes in higher-risk sectors through coordinated enforcement, engagement and capability-building efforts across government agencies. MAST is composed of the Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health, the Labour Movement, and the Workplace Safety and Health Council Industry Committees.

- Increase the composition fine quantum for workplace safety offences detected during inspections from **\$2,000 to \$3,000** for first-time offences, with higher composition fines applying for repeat or more serious offences
- Increase the minimum duration of Stop-Work Orders (SWO) from **five weeks to eight weeks** for companies with workplace safety lapses warranting a SWO;
- **Debar companies from hiring new migrant workers for 3 months** in egregious cases involving serious workplace safety lapses resulting in fatal or serious accidents.

These enhanced measures are intended to strengthen compliance with workplace safety requirements, reinforce employer accountability for workplace safety outcomes, and encourage the proactive management of workplace risks. These enhanced measures will be in place for the month of July, and will be extended if safety outcomes do not improve.

### **Maintaining Strong Workplace Safety Standards**

5. Employers are responsible for ensuring that adequate risk controls, safe work procedures and supervision arrangements are in place. Company leaders should regularly review workplace risks, ensure that workplace safety requirements are adhered to, and foster a culture where workplace safety remains a priority across all levels of the organisation. Supervisors and workers also play an important role in identifying and addressing workplace risks early. Workers should remain vigilant and promptly raise concerns when they encounter unsafe situations or practices.

6. MOM will continue to monitor workplace safety performance closely and work with industry partners, unions, and workers to strengthen workplace safety standards, and improve workplace safety outcomes.

## End ##

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# Watch Out for Risk in Routine Work

Routine tasks can be just as dangerous as high-risk work. Taking simple safety precautions can prevent serious injuries and fatalities.



## Simple Safety Steps



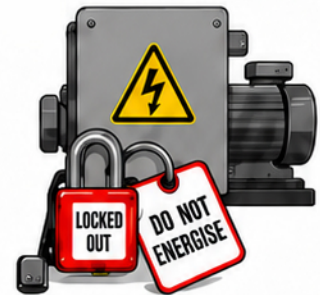
- Maintain a proper lookout when operating machinery or vehicles.



- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).



- Secure the parking brake before alighting from a vehicle.



- Ensure machinery is fully de-energised before working on or near moving parts.



## Employees should:

- Follow safe work procedures at all times. Do not take shortcuts, even during routine tasks.
- Recognise that risks can arise at every stage of a task, including vehicle parking, housekeeping and equipment setup.
- Pause before starting work to assess risks and take any additional precautions needed.
- Stay focused, avoid distractions and maintain situational awareness throughout tasks.
- Speak up and report unsafe conditions to your supervisor.



## Adopt the 'I CHOOSE SAFETY' mindset



### LOOK

Identify hazards and assess risks.



### THINK

Think through the work.



### DO

Carry it out safely.

