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## **URGENT CALL FOR SAFETY TIME OUT AT CONTAINER LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT WORKSITES**

The Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council and the Container Depot and Logistics Association (Singapore) - CDAS are deeply concerned over the spate of recent worksite fatalities and would like to remind all logistics and transportation firms of the importance of maintaining workplace safety and health even as they implement Safe Management Measures (SMM) at worksites.

WSH Council and CDAS noted that the recent fatalities reported could have easily been prevented if proper risk assessments had been carried out, site personnel had been vigilant, clear-minded, and maintained high level of safety awareness at all times. While logistics and transportation activities have been ongoing to catch up on time lost due to disruptions of the COVID-19 outbreak, companies may be working on tighter deadlines amidst a shortage of manpower in the industry. As every accident will cause further delays and tighter deadlines for the projects, WSH Council and CDAS would like to strongly urge all container depot, logistics and transportation firms to take a step back and conduct a thorough Safety Time-Out exercise at all their worksites.

The Safety Time-Out should take stock and review container logistics and transport activities and safety protocols to ensure safe operations. To help guide the industry in implementing the exercise, the WSH Council has developed a series of checklists, downloadable [HERE](#).

Depots and Transporters may also be under pressure to ramp up work activities in preparation for the upcoming festive season as many employees may be clearing annual leaves during the year end. With the potential shortfall in manpower during year end, let us not forget to take care of ourselves and our colleagues so that everyone can go home safe and healthy at the end of each workday.

All employers must ensure the following:

- Deploy only workers who are feeling well, fit for work and competent for the task;
- Check that all vehicles, machinery, equipment and tools have undergone routine maintenance and thorough inspection to ensure that they are in good working condition and safe to operate;
- Review the risk assessment for each work activity/process and account for the impact of reduced manpower, if any;
- Confirm that risk controls are in place and conduct toolbox briefings to ensure that workers are aware of the Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) and on-site risk controls prior to starting work;

- Remind workers of work hazards and provide the necessary on-site supervision to ensure SWPs are strictly adhered to; and
- Adhere to Safe Management Measures such as wearing a mask, observing safe distancing and remaining within split teams.

Companies are advised to complete their Safety Time-Out exercises as soon as possible, or at least before 23 December 2020 when the festive season kicks in.

Together, we can prevent all injuries and ill-health at the workplace.

Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council  
Container Depot and Logistics Association (Singapore)

10 December 2020