

# Safety and health alert

## 04/07 Stone worker killed

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### Incident

An employee was killed when attempting to move a 220kg slab of engineered stone which was stowed on an A-frame rack. The deceased, standing in front of the A-frame rack, pulled the first slab of stone towards him and was holding it stationary. The deceased's work colleague then manoeuvred the second slab and placed a block behind it so it could be clamped and lifted out of the A-frame rack. While standing in front of the A-frame rack, two slabs of engineered stone fell and pinned the deceased against an A-frame rack directly adjacent.

### Factors to consider

- Each panel weighed approximately 220kg.
- The deceased was standing directly in front of the A-frame rack when the slabs of engineered stone fell.
- The A-frame racking system did not prevent slabs of stone from falling towards the deceased.

### Recommendations

1. Employers must ensure that the risk of being crushed, pinned or trapped by heavy material at the workplace is eliminated or significantly reduced by means of engineering controls, and develop safe systems of work for the storage, movement and handling of such products.
2. Employers at the workplace must ensure that workers engaged in the storage, movement and handling of heavy materials are trained and proficient in carrying out these duties in a safe manner.
3. Employers should identify all manual handling hazards within the workplace, assess the risk of injury and develop and implement means of reducing the risk.
4. Information and guidance provided in the WorkSafe Code of Practice *Manual Handling December 2000* can be used as a guide.

### Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au) or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au)

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