8

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION

Health and safety are connected with the workforce involved in the construction project execution. Most accidents occur due to a lack of health and safety plans. Hence, this chapter covers the nature and types of accidents on construction sites, accident theories, and health and safety issues. Moreover, the CIDB Act and OSH Act, the main players in construction site safety and safety management techniques and tools are components of this chapter.

8.1 NATURE AND TYPES OF ACCIDENTS

An accident is an unplanned event and has negative consequences in the short and long term. Due to accidents on-site, injuries occur and cause fatalities. The construction industry is one of the most unsafe industries where accidents are very high. When an accident occurs, it affects the workers and damages the materials and equipment, leaving the stakeholders under the burden of ransom. The higher rate of accidents among workers is associated with physical activities. No one wants to get injured, and the management's responsibility lies in providing a safe construction environment. The accidents occur when the management fails to enforce the safety procedures, does not provide safety training, has poor facilities, supervision, instructions, planning and coordination, has inadequate signboards, and cannot recognise the hazards. The most common types of accidents [64] are stated below,

1. Crane or Hoist Accidents
   Operators' lack of training and errors can cause serious accidents if cranes and hoists are not handled properly.



Figure 8.1 Handling of Crane and Hoist

2. Falls from Heights
It is the most common yet serious type of accident caused by falling from scaffolding, roof or ladder.



Figure 8.2 Accident Caused by Falling From a Height

3. Slip and Falls
Another common cause is the slip and fall, which can occur due to tools or equipment placed in the working area or material placed on the floor. It can result in broken bones and other serious injuries.