

Worker drowned after chasing an out-of-control industrial truck and falling into the sea at Marine Terminal



Picture 1-1 - The male worker who fell into the sea was transported back to the Ocean Terminal by speedboat and then sent to the hospital by ambulance for rescue. (Photo by Lin Zhijie)

Friday, October 20, 2023 [Ming Pao News] A fatal industrial accident occurred in Tsim Sha Tsui yesterday. A male worker in his sixties was unloading goods at the unloading area of the Ocean Terminal yesterday afternoon when the pallet truck lost control and rushed down the ramp. When he tried to stop it, he tripped and fell on the pallet truck, and the truck and he were swept into the sea. Firefighters and marine police arrived at the scene and rescued the worker who fell into the sea, but he died after being sent to the hospital for emergency treatment. Kerry Logistics confirmed that the victim was an employee of the company. The Labor Department said it had issued warnings to the employers concerned.

The 65-year-old man surnamed Chen who fell into the sea was unconscious when he was rescued by a boat. The ambulancemen gave first aid on the spot and installed an automatic external cardiac compressor for him. He was then sent to the hospital by ambulance. Unfortunately, he was pronounced dead after resuscitation. It is understood that Chen lives alone in Choi Tak Estate, Ngau Tau Kok. Neighbors revealed that Chen was obese and had lived in the unit for about 13 years.

The pallet truck crashed down and the slanted cargo tripped and fell onto the truck.

It is understood that Chen and his colleagues went to the Ocean Terminal yesterday to collect the goods and transport them away. The incident occurred at about 12 noon yesterday. The two arrived at the North Bridge Pier of Ocean Terminal. Chen got out of the car to transport the goods from the mall to the truck parked outside, while his colleagues were waiting in the vehicle. Chen then put the goods on the pallet truck and drove down the ramp to Beiqiao Pier. The pallet truck suddenly lost control and accelerated. Chen rushed forward and tried to stop the pallet truck to no avail. The goods were scattered all over the ground. It is suspected that he tripped over the goods on the ground. He fell on the cart and rushed out of the dock with the cart and fell into the sea. It is reported that a colleague witnessed the incident in the rear mirror of the truck and called the police for help.

Fire engines and marine police speedboats responded to the call and searched the nearby waters. Firefighters later found the worker who had fallen into the sea. The speedboats took the injured to the pier and then to the hospital by ambulance. The police investigated at the Ocean Terminal Terminal and the hospital afterwards. Chen did not have any suspicious injuries on his body. The case is temporarily listed as someone who died when he was sent to the hospital. The cause of his death has yet to be determined by autopsy. The case is being followed up by the Tsim Sha Tsui Police District Miscellaneous Investigation Team.

Kerry Logistics responded to this newspaper's inquiry and confirmed that the victim was employed by Kerry Distribution Services (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. as a delivery boy. The company and its employees were deeply saddened after learning of the accident, expressed deep condolences to his family, and provided appropriate assistance to the family. The company will fully cooperate with the police investigation.

The Labor Department expressed great concern and immediately dispatched personnel to the accident site to conduct an investigation. The Labor Department has issued a warning to relevant employers, urging them to comply with occupational safety and health laws and take appropriate preventive measures to ensure workers' work safety.