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**A STUDY ON SAFETY PERFORMANCE OF CONSTRUCTION SITES
FOR A SAFER WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

**“I hereby declare that this academic project is the result of my own research
except for the quotation and summary which have been acknowledged”**

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ABSTRACT

Construction remains one of the most dangerous industry where improvements to health and safety is deemed important. Safety is the most important aspect that needs to be taken into account on the construction site. The research assessed the safety and health performance of the construction sites and identifies the causes of accidents in construction sites. The case study for the research are construction sites in Klang Valley. The safety and health performance of the sites were assessed and the causes of accidents are identified. The research are based on the literature review and semi structured interview. The findings reveals the safety and health performance of the construction site and the common causes of accidents in construction sites. Recommendation of mitigation measures were made to improve the performance of the construction site in Klang Valley.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Construction remains one of the most dangerous industry where improvements to health and safety is deemed important. The construction industry plays an important role in any country's economic development. It establishes the infrastructure required for socioeconomic development while being a major contributor to overall economic growth (Drawer, 1980).

The construction site involves a lot of operations which are dangerous, risky and unhealthy. The number of injuries, accident, and work related illness will contribute to additional costs and delays on projects. Construction site is the most dangerous and hazardous compare with other type of industry. Accidents still occurred in construction site and the percentage is kept rising every year. When accident occurred in construction site it will cause the project to be delay and loss of project cost.

Even though there has been a decrease in the number of industrial accidents and the rate of accidents per 1,000 workers since the introduction of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) act in 1994, improvement is moderate as over the last five years. OSHA is an Act that provides legislative framework to secure the safety, health and welfare among all Malaysian workforces and to protect others against risks to safety or health in relation with the activities of persons at work stated under OSHA 1994 Part 1 (Section 1). This Act was gazetted on 24th February 1994 and cited as the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994. This Act is a tool cover on existing safety and health legislation. Even though regulations on occupational safety and health in Malaysia are quite comprehensive, the level of awareness and practicability of such regulations within the society of construction industry are generally lower than average.

No	Industry	Year /Fatal Incident					TOTAL
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1	Manufacturing	53	59	27	40	47	226
2	Construction	62	66	24	67	36	255
3	Agriculture based	40	30	17	38	26	151
4	Utility	18	11	2	5	0	36
5	Transport, storage, communication	8	14	3	22	7	54
6	Wholesale & Retail	0	0	0	0	3	3
7	Hotel and Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
8	Financial, Insurance, Real Estate	1	1	5	0	0	7
9	Public Service & Statuary Body	1	3	1	0	0	5
TOTAL		183	184	80	172	119	738

Table 1.1 Reported fatal accident by industry in Malaysia for year 2009 until 2013 by Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)

Source: DOSH (2014)

In the past few years the safety and health awareness has been increased in the construction industry because the improvement of safety and health culture. Fung (2005) found that, the positive safety culture helps controlling and reducing the construction costs and increasing work efficiency. So, for the benefits of the construction companies are to take the necessary actions to manage safety and health on workplace (Koehn, 1995). Large construction companies have better safety and health management performance than the medium and small companies which often have informal safety and health programs (Tam et al., 2004). There is a popular belief that the construction site is unsafe and the risks that the workers are subjected to are usual.