



National August 13, 2020

# Crane collapse kills five: Concrete slabs also fall on house in Poipet city

Ben Sokhean / Khmer Times /



Police help move debris to rescue people trapped after the crane collapse in Poipet city yesterday.

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Five people died and five others were seriously injured yesterday when a crane, carrying concrete slabs at an under-construction building, collapsed on a neighbouring house in Banteay Meanchey province.



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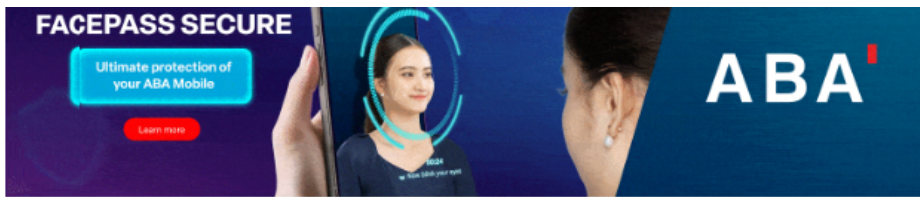
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The victims, all women, were sitting on the verandah of the house when the incident happened at around 3pm in Poipet city, authorities said.

Local authorities identified the dead victims as Chhean Hong, Choeum Sok Nak, Yeay Loek, Seng Moykea and Chao Ly. While the injured were identified as Phal Sodalín, 30, Ka Somamean, 37; Sao Rith, 41 and Kann Sreydy.

Provincial governor Oum Reatrey visited the scene shortly after the incident and ordered his officials to temporarily close the construction site for further investigation.

He said the provincial hall donated \$2,500 to each dead victim's family while the building owner donated \$300 to each of them.

Provincial police Chief Major General Ath Khem said the incident occurred at the construction site in Phsar Kandal commune when the crane broke off from its base and fell on the house and the women below.

"Five people were found dead and others sustained injuries," he said.

Ang Narith, director of the provincial department of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, told *Khmer Times* yesterday an investigation was launched to find the reason behind the collapse.



The destroyed house after the crane fell on it in Poipet city yesterday. Facebook

However, he said authorities believe the accident was caused by negligence.

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## Opinion



### Myanmar, Civil war of 'many against many' tearing country up

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“When the crane collapsed, concrete slabs it was carrying dropped on the people who were outside a neighbouring house, resulting in deaths and injuries,” Narith said. “The construction site has been temporarily closed pending investigation.”

He said the property is owned by Park City which builds apartments and condominiums for sale. Authorities are investigating whether any construction companies were involved with the project.

“The project may involve contractors for different sections. They may have rented the crane from a separate company,” he said. “Currently, we don’t have specific information yet, because we have not met the contractor yet.”

Asked who would be held responsible for the collapse, Narith said: “We need to investigate first before identifying who is responsible.”

According to the police report, the crane was about 40 metres long, and used for lifting concrete slabs measuring four-by-four metres and 12 centimetres thick. The report noted that the crane had been carrying the slabs at a height of 20 metres.

Witnesses said they saw the group of women playing cards under the roof in front of the house shortly before the nearby construction crane fell on them.

“The people were just sitting in front of the house, and suddenly, a long crane collapsed on the house,” villager Kim Eang, 40, said.

“Several rescuers, consisting of police, military police and local authorities tried to rescue them from the debris, but the five women were already dead,” he added. “I don’t know the specific reason behind the collapse but I think it might be because the crane was too old.”

Sok Kin, president of the Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia, yesterday expressed concern over the safety of construction in Cambodia, following several accidents.

He said the relevant authorities should strictly inspect the safety and quality of all construction projects rather than wait for an accident to happen.

“The government and companies should work together to eliminate such incidents,” he said, adding that besides the Law on Construction, the Ministry of Land Management also issues other guidelines to ensure construction safety though enforcement seems ineffective.

“They [company] should strictly inspect the quality of all construction equipment before using them,” he said. “We need to have high safety standards to avoid accidents. The inspectors should not be careless

swimming, La Nina, have such hot-weather weather impacts.



### How Does Hot Weather Affect Your Blood Pressure

The warm weather we have been experiencing for the past week is set to stretch into the next two weeks of May.



### Maritime community of shared future sets sail

In terms of potential future risks, several critical points require China’s attention. First, the Ren’ai Jiao issue in the South China Sea has been simmering since the Philippines started delivering construction materials to the Ren’ai Jiao and attempted to make it a permanently occupied military base.

### Features



### ‘City Hunter’ – Action-packed adaptation of legendary manga...

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when checking construction sites and order the company to strictly follow the guidelines.

Concern over construction safety in the country has been raised in the past two years after dozens of workers and family members were killed or badly hurt during a series of construction site accidents.

In a bid to improve safety standards at construction sites, the National Assembly last year passed the Law on Construction, which aims to further regulate the Kingdom's booming construction sector.

The Land Management Ministry early this year also issued a directive banning the construction of all buildings without a permit in the Kingdom as well as banned construction workers from living within construction sites.

The ministry also instructed all relevant authorities, including provincial land management department officials, to take legal action against those who flout the laws.

Kin said yesterday the authorities must implement the law on all companies without exception.

"If the relevant authorities, ministries and institutions do not strengthen the implementation of the Law on Construction, I think we cannot avoid such disasters in the future," he said. "They should not be waiting for advice or orders from the top country leaders before taking action, but instead implement the existing law."

In June last year, the collapse of a seven-storey Chinese-owned building in Sihanoukville killed 28 and injured 26 workers. Authorities have said that it was built without a permit and local officials ordered construction work to be halted several times, but the builders did not pay heed.

In October 2019, three construction workers were killed during an elevator mishap in Phnom Penh.

In December, three people were killed and more than a dozen sustained critical injuries in a temple building collapse in Siem Reap province's Siem Reap city.

Early this year, another seven-storey building under construction collapsed in Kep province's Kep city, killing 36 people, including children, and injuring 23 others.



### 'The Fall Guy' delivers a blast of pure high-wire showmanship

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### Cambodia must work towards more inclusive education

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all," said Aristotle. And in today's world, Asian parents are so focused on marks that they put an unimaginable amount of pressure on their kids.

### Good Times2



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