



SAFETY ALERT

A serious accident occurred recently at Discovery Gardens where a worker was crushed by steel pipes. The accident occurred in a storage yard where the pipes had been stored in bundles and stacked several bundles high.

Investigation by EHS identified that the worker had climbed behind the stack of pipes for an unknown reason. In doing so he disturbed the stacking causing the bundles to roll and collapse on him. It was also evident that there were no measures in place to secure the bundles and prevent them rolling from the stack. Further investigation of the storage yard revealed other materials stored / stacked unsafely.

All contractors should take note of the following points:-

The following must be given consideration:-

- *Storage yards can often be overlooked as far as safety is concerned, yet they can be as hazardous as construction areas.*
- *A risk assessment must be prepared for the delivery, handling and storage of materials ensuring that foreseeable risks are identified and adequately controlled. .*
- *Particular attention should be given to the stacking and storage of materials. Contractors must ensure that materials are secure and that there is no risk of materials collapsing, rolling or falling.*
- *Workers employed in storage yards must be given the same health and safety training and briefings as those workers employed in construction area.*
- *Contractors must subject storage areas to regular health and safety inspections by competent safety professionals.*
- *Good housekeeping is as important in a storage yard as it is on site. Access routes must be kept clear and packaging must be cleared regularly .*