



SAFETY ALERT

An accident occurred recently at International City Phase 3 Project involving a third party developer working on the site. Four workers were injured when a section of a concrete block retaining wall fell on them.

Investigation by EHS identified that there was no design for the wall which was part of a temporary water storage tank. Additionally the wall was constructed without any piers or supports throughout its entire length. At the time of the accident a mechanical loader was working close by which increased the pressure on the wall and was a contributing factor in the wall collapsing. It was also discovered during the investigation that the site was working without a COC I as required by EHS Regulations.

The accident highlights the need for proper planning and design of temporary works to ensure their adequacy. The following points must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *All structural works including those of a temporary nature must be designed and reviewed by a competent engineer.*
- ➔ *Risk assessments must take into account the specifics of construction. This accident highlights the need for engineers to be involved in the risk assessment process.*
- ➔ *Checks must be made to ensure that temporary works are constructed in accordance with the approved design.*
- ➔ *Engineering designs must take into account external factors that could effect the structure. In this case the mechanical loader passing close to the wall increased the pressure on the wall and contributed to its collapse.*
- ➔ *During construction when weaknesses may exist in a structure that is partly constructed temporary measures such as bracing must be used to prevent collapse.*
- ➔ *COC -1 must be applied for and obtained from EHS prior to the start of any site construction activities.*

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