



## SAFETY ALERT

An accident recently occurred at Jumeirah Lake Towers when a worker was crushed after a stack of concrete blocks collapsed.

Whilst breaking the banding on the blocks one of the stacks collapsed on the worker. The blocks were in stacks over 3 metres high on the sand close to the tower under construction.

Investigation by EHS identified that the main contractor's material storage areas were poorly organized and blocks were stacked dangerously high. Also the blocks were stacked on the sand which had not been leveled and therefore the stack leaned more as its height increased. Despite the foreseeability of this type of accident the main contractor had failed to assess the risks of block storage and handling. The worker had not received any instruction about how to safely handle blocks from the stack to the worksite.

All contractors should note the following:-

- ➔ *The accident highlights the need for all activities and operations to be risk assessed. In this case some simple measures taken by the main contractor would have prevented the accident.*
- ➔ *Storage areas are a critical part of the site operation and care must be given to ensuring there is management control of these areas.*
- ➔ *In the case of blocks, bricks or other similar materials a hard standing must be provided. Preferably this should be leveled concrete or tarmac.*
- ➔ *Blocks should be stacked to a maximum of 2 metres high on site. Stacks should be carefully broken one at a time starting from the top level and working down.*
- ➔ *Wherever possible priority must be given to using mechanical aids to assist the handling of materials. If a crane is to be used for lifting blocks the blocks must remain on a pallet and certified brick forks must be used.*
- ➔ *Information and instruction must be provided to all workers and a record of this communication must be kept. Even seemingly straightforward operations can have high risks associated with them.*

**For further information contact:**  
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**Safety Alert 032 260907**