



SAFETY ALERT

A serious accident occurred recently at Jumeirah Lake Towers on a third party tower development under the jurisdiction of EHS.

The worker received a serious head injury when a 300 mm² cable he was pulling vertically through the floor slab dropped and crushed his head against the cable containment tray.

Investigation by EHS identified that there were a number of significant management failures that contributed to the accident. There was no risk assessment prepared for the activity and no information had been given to the workers on how to do the work safely. There was also poor communication between those involved in pulling the cables and a lack of competent supervision. Finally the injured worker was inexperienced and had already worked 12 hours at the time the accident occurred. The investigation concluded that tiredness and fatigue were contributing factors to the accident.

All contractors should note the following:-

- ➔ *The importance of adequately assessing risks is highlighted in this accident. A simple risk assessment could have identified the various hazards that were present and ensured that control measures were in place. Risk assessments must be communicated to workers in order to be effective.*
- ➔ *During cable pulling operations an agreed means of communicating must exist in the team. This will ensure the team is working together and reduce the likelihood of the cable being dropped.*
- ➔ *A permit to work system should be considered for cable pulling operations especially during the pulling of cables vertically through service risers.*
- ➔ *High risk activities demand a greater level of supervision and checks must be made to ensure workers are competent to do the work. It must be remembered that experience is an element of competency.*
- ➔ *Fatigue after a long day doing hard work will effect a workers ability to do the job safely. This a hazard that must be taken into account as part of the risk assessment.*

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