



SAFETY ALERT

A worker was seriously injured when a free standing blockwork wall collapsed when he placed a ladder against it to fix shuttering for a lintel. The worker then fell onto 5mm rebar that was being prepared for a man hole cover in the excavation below. The worker fell 1.5m and the rebar penetrated the workers body. The worker was evacuated to the hospital.

Investigation of the accident by EHS identified that the contractor had failed to identify the free standing wall as a hazard and failed to provide the correct access equipment to carry out the work safely. The risks associated with vertical rebar had also not been adequately controlled.

All contractors working on Nakheel projects must ensure that adequate protective measures are in place to prevent this type of accident.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *All contractors must undertake risk assessments for their works and identify the protective and preventative measures that must be in place to allow work to be carried out safely.*
- ➔ *In the absence of planning workers will try to improvise to get the job done. Contractors must plan works carefully and ensure that any additional equipment needed to get the job done safely is provided.*
- ➔ *A ladder is always the last resort as a place of work, there is no substitute for a safe working platform.*
- ➔ *Ends of Rebar are a danger and must be protected to prevent cuts and penetrative injury. Plastic caps are available at little cost and are reusable.*
- ➔ *Walls should be supported temporarily until the lintels are bedded in place.*

For further information contact:

Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation

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