



SAFETY ALERT

Recently in Palm Cove Canal area (Dubai Water Front) a serious accident happened. While connecting another pipe to the existing dewatering pipe, loose sloping soil collapsed. Three workers got trapped under it.

Investigation by EHS revealed that the loose sloping soil was excavated at the bottom without taking necessary safety precautions. The victim was involved in fixing dewatering pipe, by standing directly below excavated & disturbed loose soil that collapsed.

Shoring was not done as per their safe operating procedure to prevent loose soil from collapsing. The victim was a driver & was made to perform a task of fixing pipe. Job hazard analysis was not done to perform this specific task. Permit to work system was not followed. Two workers trapped under the collapsed soil were rescued successfully where as the third one could not be saved.

The following minimum requirements must be adhered to:-

- ▶ Risk Assessment / Hazard Analysis to be carried out and communicated to all concerned before undertaking such works.
- ▶ Safe work procedure must be prepared, communicated and implemented for such specific tasks.
- ▶ Provide appropriate slope or ensure shoring is done when there is a possibility of collapsing loose soil to protect workers.
- ▶ Permit to work system must be available & implemented.
- ▶ Record of Tool box talk to all personnel involved in excavation operation should be available.
- ▶ Appoint experience worker for specific tasks & avoid engaging unauthorized workers.
- ▶ Work to be carried out under effective supervision.
- ▶ Emergency Response procedures must be available and followed.

For further information contact:

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