



Work Safety Alert **Collapse of Soil**

- 1. Date of Accident :** May 2012
- 2. Place of Accident :** A construction site in Tai Lam
- 3. Summary :**

It is reported that a worker was trapped to his death by collapsing soil while undertaking excavation works to construct a utility tunnel about 2.7 metres below the road surface.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent the hazard of ground collapse, contractors/employers undertaking trench/tunnel excavation works should:

- identify the hazards and assess the risks of ground collapse to determine appropriate control measures, including benching or battering, the installation of suitable shoring or shields;
- prepare a safe work method statement based on the risk assessments;
- implement the control measures; and
- exercise effective supervision to ensure compliance with the above measures.



5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Excavations and Miscellaneous Safety under the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

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