



Work Safety Alert Collapse of Reinforcement Bar Structure

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2020
2. **Place of Accident :** A tunnel under construction
3. **Summary :**

While a team of workers was working on a reinforcement bar structure in a tunnel under construction, the structure suddenly collapsed, causing the workers to fall together with the collapsing structure. One worker died and six workers injured as a result.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :**

To ensure the occupational safety of workers/ employees engaged in reinforcement structure's work, the contractors/ employers responsible for the work should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent engineer with adequate qualifications, competence and experience to design the reinforcement structure that is in conformity with established standards and capable of safely sustaining all loads to be applied to the structure, particularly the sufficiency and strength of its supports;
- ensuring the sequence of placing loads on the reinforcement structure is properly planned;
- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work, the working environment, the construction and structural stability of the reinforcement structure, and the activities to be carried out on the structure;



- formulating safe work methods, procedures and measures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, the design of the reinforcement structure, the requirements of safety legislation and the relevant safety guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers/ employees concerned;
- ensuring that all components of the reinforcement structure should be of sound material, good construction and adequate strength, free from patent defect and securely supported to prevent collapse or undue movement;
- appointing a competent construction supervisor with sufficient technical knowledge and management skills, and be able to read and understand the drawings and specifications for the reinforcement structure to supervise the construction of the structure;
- ensuring the reinforcement structure has been properly erected in compliance with the drawings and specifications before allowing workers/ employees to work on the structure;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.