



COLLAPSE OF PILING MACHINERY



An accident involving a piling machinery occurred at a construction site recently. The piling machinery toppled while it was moving and had crashed a nearby truck. This incident resulted in severe damage to the prime mover of the truck and the lorry driver was injured in the head.

To improve the safety at construction sites and to prevent similar occurrences from recurring, the following are some of the aspects that need to be addressed by contractors and operators:

i) Risk assessment

The contractor shall conduct HIRARC to identify all potential hazards that may arise from the work operation that will be carried out, and to take the necessary measures to prevent any unwanted incidents.

ii) Verification of soil strength and stability

The contractor shall verify that the condition of the site where the work will be carried out is appropriate and safe, by conducting tests or with appropriate engineering calculations. For this case, the strength and stability of the soil that will accommodate the machinery load and work operation must be ensured.

Technical information related to machinery and work areas such as the bearing pressure, workload, machinery to be used as well as its working platform, and method statement should be known and made available before the work is carried out.

iii) Work methods / procedures

The operator shall operate the machinery with proper methods, and comply with work methods or procedures established in the operations manual.

Further Information:

1. [Part XIV, Factories And Machinery \(Building Operations And Works Of Engineering Construction\) \(Safety\) Regulations, 1986](#)
2. [Guidelines for Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control \(HIRARC\), 2008](#)