

Safety & Health Alert No. 12/2019

Preparing for the Rainy Season 2019

Flood Prevention Measures on Construction Sites

Date : 15 March 2019
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With the approach of the wet season, this serves to solicit your support in taking proactive measures to ensure that there will be no adverse drainage impacts on the stormwater drainage systems due to construction activities under your projects.

In past years there was a considerable number of flooding incidents during severe rainstorms. It is revealed that some have been aggravated, and some have been caused directly by nearby construction activities. The impact of construction activities on the stormwater drainage system is fourfold -

- (a) Some construction works have interfaces with the existing public stormwater drainage system. These may include enlargement, diversion, or connection to existing stormwater drains, which inevitably involve temporary works in the drainage systems. From time to time, it is found that some temporary works are either not designed properly to accommodate the flood flow or are not constructed in accordance with the agreed plans. As such inadequacies directly reduce the capacity of the drainage systems, the chance of flooding is increased substantially.
- (b) Many construction activities on roads have the potential to block road gullies, catchpits and U-channels, either by debris washed down from stockpiled excavated material, storage of plant and materials or by poorly designed temporary works. The resulting flooding on the roads causes severe traffic disruption.
- (c) Many silt traps provided on construction sites are not properly designed, or more importantly, not regularly maintained. As a result large amounts of silt and mud,

and in some cases cement slurry, are allowed to enter into the public stormwater drainage system, causing serious blockage and damage to the system with consequent substantial increase in risk of flooding in the area.

- (d) Temporary site drainage may not have been properly designed or connected. As a result, surface runoff overflows from the construction sites and causes flooding around the sites. In many cases, the surface runoff also carries with it excessive amounts of silt and mud, which in turn block the stormwater drain inlets and aggravates flooding.

You are reminded to take all necessary precautionary measures so that the risk of flooding will not be increased as a result of the construction activities under your projects. In case your construction activities touch upon the public stormwater drainage systems, please kindly liaise with the respective district officer of the Drainage Services Department in advance of the works to ensure that the drainage impacts are minimized.