

Safety & Health Alert No. 8/2023

Safety Message from Environmental Protection Department – Prevention of muddy water discharge from Government Projects

Date: 23 February 2023
Our Ref. : HD2-7/SHU/108-30/14

This serves to draw your attention to the captioned safety message issued by Environmental Protection Department.

As the rainy season is fast approaching, Environmental Protection Department is writing to seek your help to prevent the discharge of stormwater with suspended particles, or in general muddy water, from government project sites into the Hong Kong Water Control Zones.

2. Since the past incidents of muddy water discharge leading to the impact onto the water quality of the Water Control Zones had aroused attention from the public, the press and members of the local District Council and Legislative Council, who urge for preventive measures to contain the problem, we would like to seek your concerted effort in tackling the muddy water discharge problems during the rainy season.

3. As far as Environmental Protection Department learnt from onsite observation and experience in the past years, the issue involved a number of potential sources, e.g. open spaces with stockpile of soil, sand, cement or construction waste; construction sites with open cuts or uncovered areas; landfill and fill bank; and foundations works of discharge, etc., which may contribute to the muddy water found in the sea. Under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, it is an offence to discharge polluting water into the Waters of Hong Kong.

4. Given the likelihood of heavy rain storms in this wet season and in the years to come, Environmental Protection Department call on your immediate actions to enhance storm water management for construction sites, stabilise any slope surfaces, reduce any exposed or uncovered areas, cover up any stockpiled materials or waste within the areas

of your control, and ensure proper installation and operation of the wastewater treatment facilities in the construction sites as far as practicable. Please disseminate the message to relevant teams/colleagues where necessary.

5. Should there be any enquiry, please feel free to call Mr. Lee (Environmental Protection Department) at 2516 1876.