

Major Excavation Hazard in Cape Coast Metropolis

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Abstract

The constant changing working environment within the construction industry has contributed to its health and safety nightmare. Excavations and trenches collapse have also contributed to major injuries on employees and leading to their unfortunate death. Experts' views were used, during a Delphi survey to assess hazards during excavation work. The experts were made up of a health and safety personnel, a quantity surveyor, a structural engineer, a construction manager, a project manager, a building technologist and an architect in Cape Coast Metropolis. Findings from the study show that the extent of excavation depth and nature of the strata (soil variations creating the potential for the sides to collapse) were ranked first and second with a mean of 9.25 and 9.00. These two variables were considered by experts to have a very high impact (VHI: 9-10) on the influence of excavation hazard and impact of contractors' perception. Further findings show that very few employees observed the construction regulations, while almost all the employees obeyed the OHS requirements. Attention should be given to proper planning and immediate action towards excavation hazards.

Keyword: Accident; cave-ins; collapse; injury; risk

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