

Lee: Warning signs inadequate

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'Some building sites lack safety measures'

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PETALING JAYA: There are still some construction sites without adequate safety signs and warning lights for motorists, said National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

He stressed that contractors must place a priority in creating an environment that is safe for both their workers and the public.

"This must be given priority. They cannot afford any incident that will affect public confidence. While we want to see these projects completed on time, safety must never be compromised," he said.

Warning lights are critical in alerting motorists to slow down, especially when visibility is affected by a downpour, Lee pointed out.

He said signs should also warn motorists and pedestrians in advance of a construction ahead.

"Another very important safety practice is to ensure that all those handling cranes and other heavy equipment are given the relevant training. We have read of crane-related incidents over the years.

"While some, fortunately, did not involve loss of life, the fact is that these incidents can be prevented," he said.

Public concern about safety at construction sites was raised yet again when motorist A. Vijayasngam was killed instantly after 10 tonnes of equipment hoisted by a crane fell and crushed his car last Friday.

The incident, which caused another driver to suffer injuries, occurred at an LRT extension site near KM15 of Jalan Lapangan Terbang Subang.

Lee advised motorists to be vigilant at all times and drive slowly when approaching a construction site.

"Take heed of all the warning signs. If there is no traffic jam, try to drive on the lane furthest from the site as possible," he said.

He stressed that construction-related incidents were preventable if contractors went the extra mile in ensuring that their workers were well supervised and safety guidelines adhered to.