Title: Sudden collapse of hillock during foundation work for retaining wall.

Result/ outcome: One fatality and three injuries.

What Happened?
During construction of a RCC retaining wall at the foot of a hillock inside a tank firm, workers were engaged in manual dewatering job from the foundation trench of the retaining wall. Suddenly a huge mass of loosened earth avalanched down the hillock and fell on the work site at the foot of the hillock, causing serious injuries to four workmen. One of them succumbed to his injury.

What Caused It?
- Inadequate planning for job execution.
- Testing of soil condition was not carried out by competent person.
- Shoring as a protection against earth collapse was not done as recommended in the JSA.
- Job site inspection was not carried out on day to day basis by competent person.

Corrective Actions:
- Compliance of all points advised through Job Safety Analysis to be ensured / implemented.
- Before undertaking any civil job like earth cutting / excavation at the foot of earthen hillock, soil condition of the hillock to be analyzed through Geo Technical experts.
- Deployment of competent supervisor for such critical jobs to be ensured.
- Plantation of deep rooted fibrous plants like Vetiver grass to be considered to stabilize and anchor the soil mass.

This alert is based on the Investigation report submitted by Refinery and published for information purpose only. This information should be evaluated to determine its applicability in your operations, to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.