

Construction worker speaks about East Valley site conditions

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By Rebecca Taylor / 3TV

It's the second construction accident in 24-hours at a construction site at Ellsworth and Rittenhouse roads in the East Valley.

3TV is telling the story of one construction worker who said he knew the site was dangerous, but no one would listen:

After three months on the job with S.J. Lewis construction, Carlos Acosta said he was fired for piping up about unsafe working conditions.

"I never thought it was a safe condition and I'm still saying it's not a safe condition," Acosta said.

Acosta, a former S.J. Lewis employee, was brought to tears knowing one day after his firing his friend and co-worker was buried alive by 100 tons of dirt.

"It just crushed me," he said.

Acosta said it's the second such accident in just two days, where a thin wall wipe caved under pressure.

A photo taken by Acosta yesterday, showed that while operating the heavy track ho he said he was swallowed by a shallow trench then fired on the spot.

"No one ever cared one second if I was safe or not, it was the machine, or the pipe," he said.

Fearing for his co-workers safety, Acosta tried confronting his superiors like he'd done several times before.

"And they just said, hey you don't know what you're talking about, kind of shined me off," he said.

Authorities confirm that incident was never reported until today, when 25-year-old Marcos Garcia from Mesa, a husband a father of 3 became trapped.

"He loved his family, loved his wife," Acosta said. "Maybe I feel like if I would have ran my mouth some more I could have prevented this today, ya know."

For wrecking the tractor, Acosta said his boss threatened to garnish \$500 bucks from his paycheck to pay the deductible.

3TV left messages with S.J. Lewis construction, but so far, they're not talking.

http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/stories/KTVKLNews20070517_speaks.7d17a02d.html#