



## Work Safety Alert Pressed to Death by Collapsed Wall

1. **Date of Accident :** August 2023
2. **Place of Accident :** A village house under demolition
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was demolishing a wall of a village house, part of an adjacent wall suddenly collapsed and pressed him to death.

### 4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :**

To ensure the occupational safety of workers engaged in wall demolition work, the contractors/ employers responsible for the work should provide and maintain safe systems of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the demolition work, taking into account the nature of work, the demolition methods and sequence, the construction and stability of adjoining structures and the structures (including walls) to be demolished, the working environment, etc.;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the demolition work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, the requirements of safety legislation, codes of practice and safety guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers concerned;
- providing substantive support to the adjoining structures and the structures to be demolished as necessary to prevent any part of the structures from accidental detachment, collapse, toppling or failure;



- ensuring the work is carried out by workmen with adequate training and experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person who should have sufficient technical knowledge and able to read and understand drawings, risk assessment reports and method statements of the work;
- providing each worker involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with chin strap and ensuring the proper wearing of the same by the worker on construction sites;
- providing all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring they are familiar with safe work methods/ procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [An Analysis on Occupational Fatalities - Casebook Volume 4](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Demolition of Buildings 2004](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



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**Occupational Safety and Health Branch**  
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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.