

16
June
2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Worker struck by collapsed wall

On 10 June 2022, a worker was hacking a wall on the second storey of a landed private dwelling when it collapsed onto him. He was extricated from the rubble but died soon after.



Collapsed wall

Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Demolition works are high-risk construction activities. Proper plans and procedures must be put in place before work starts. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Pre-demolition survey:** Before any demolition work begins, conduct a detailed survey to assess the structural stability of the building and its surroundings. Install additional supports (e.g. shores, braces) if any structure or component may become unstable during demolition.

- **Demolition plan:** Establish a demolition plan which minimally covers the following:
A method statement detailing the demolition sequence and approach. Inform all workers of the method and safe sequence of work.

A Permit-To-Work system to ensure all safe working conditions are met.

A debris management system showing how demolition debris is managed to maintain a safe working environment.

- **Safe work method:** Adopt a top-down wall-hacking approach to reduce the possibility of a collapse of a large segment of the wall.

- **Work supervision:** Supervisors should be on site to ensure that demolition works are carried out according to the method statement safely. They should monitor the site frequently for possible unsafe conditions and/or safety lapses.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Provide workers with the necessary PPE such as safety boots and helmets.

For more information on demolition works, please refer to [SS 557 : 2010 Code of Practice for Demolition](#) and WSH Council's [Technical Advisory for Demolition](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 13 June 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

Workplace injuries tend to rise around this time of the year. Remain vigilant against risks and prevent accidents.

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