



# FACE IT: Report Visual Extension



# Laborer, Pipefitter, and Utility Foreman Crushed by Falling Block Wall - Tennessee (FACE 2014-02)

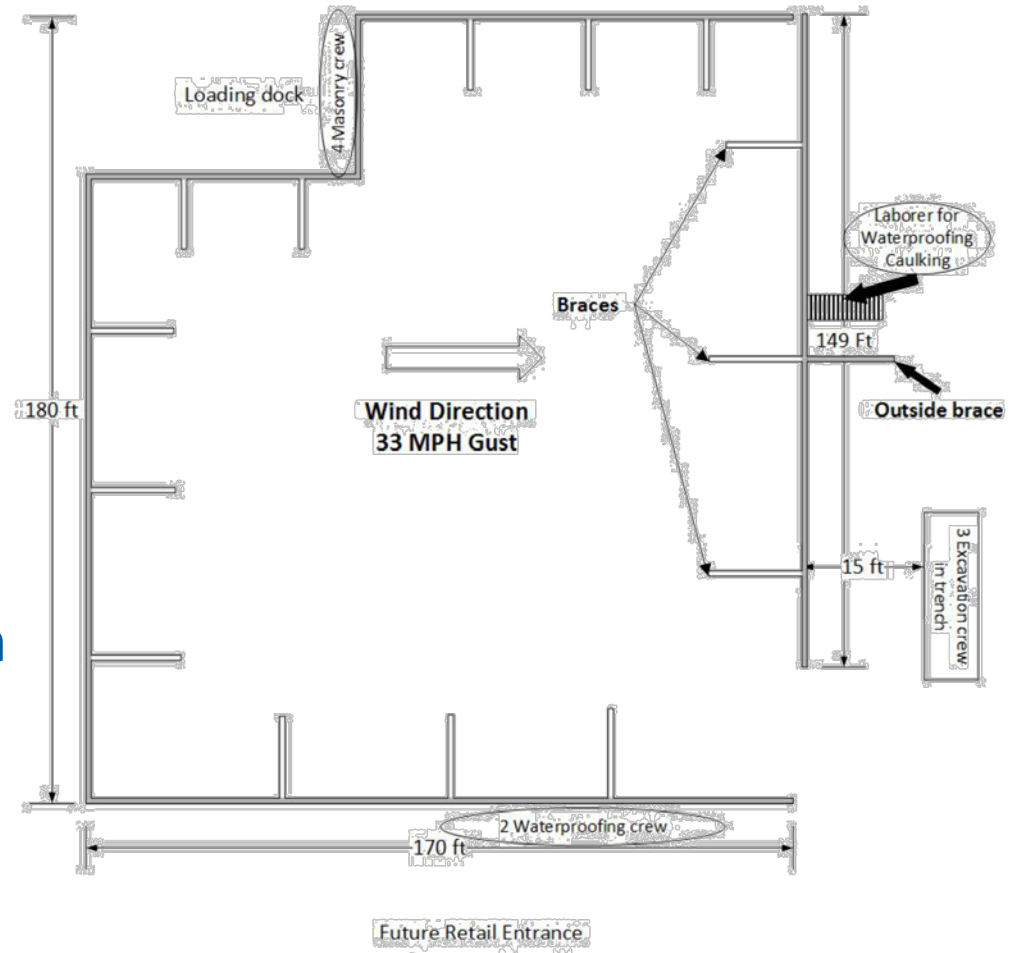


Collapsed wall  
(Photo courtesy of TOSHA)



# SUMMARY

- On April 18, 2013, a 24-year-old Hispanic laborer and a 37-year-old Hispanic pipefitter were crushed by a falling block wall when it failed.
- A 46-year-old utility foreman was also injured in the incident.



Site Diagram, Not to Scale



# SUMMARY

- At the time of the incident, the laborer was applying caulking to the expansion joints of a block wall, and the pipefitter and the utility foreman were installing piping for the building's sprinkler system in a trench next to the block wall.
- A wind gust caused the block wall to fall onto the laborer, pipefitter, and utility foreman.



East Wall Collapsed - Arrow Indicates Location of Three Workers  
(Photo courtesy of TOSHA)



# CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Deviation from engineering drawings
- Inadequate inspection of rebar placement
- Inadequate bracing for the block wall
- Wall height extending too far above the bracing
- Worker proximity to unbraced block wall
- Lack of competent person to monitor wind speed
- Inadequate training related to masonry wall safety



Interior Wall Bracing  
(Photos courtesy of TOSHA)



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Employers should:**
  - Ensure that employees follow the engineering/architectural drawings during building construction and obtain engineering approval before plan changes are made.



East Wall Rebar Location  
(Photo courtesy of TOSHA)



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Employers should:**
  - Develop and follow a masonry wall bracing plan, train employees on proper masonry wall bracing, and ensure masonry walls are properly braced throughout the project.



Wall bracing example  
(Figure courtesy of MCCA 2012)



# RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

- **Employers should:**
  - Develop and implement a restricted/limited access zone.
  - Train workers on the hazards of working around unsupported masonry walls.
  - Assign a competent person trained to monitor wind speeds.
  - Schedule work tasks to limit exposure of nonessential workers to hazards posed by masonry walls under construction.





# Laborer, Pipefitter, and Utility Foreman Crushed by Falling Block Wall in Tennessee (FACE 2014-02)

[Download the full report:](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/pdfs/full201402.pdf)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/pdfs/full201402.pdf>



NIOSH • 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505 • 304-285-5916

REPORT#: 2014-02

REPORT DATE: January 30, 2018

## INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**DATE:**  
April 18, 2013



**TIME:**  
9:45 a.m.



**VICTIM:**  
51-year old maintenance Hispanic worker; 37-year old Hispanic pipefitter



**INDUSTRY/NAICS CODE:**  
Construction/23



**EMPLOYER:**  
Commercial building contractor & subcontractors



**SAFETY & TRAINING:**  
The contractor did, but some subcontractors did not



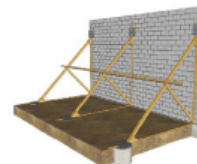
**SCENE:**  
Retail development area



**LOCATION:**  
Tennessee



**EVENT TYPE:**  
Struck by



## Laborer, Pipefitter, and Utility Foreman Crushed by Falling Block Wall—Tennessee

### SUMMARY

On April 18, 2013, a 24-year-old Hispanic laborer and a 37-year-old Hispanic pipefitter were crushed by a falling block wall when it failed; they died immediately of their injuries. A 46-year-old utility foreman was also injured in the incident. At the time of the incident, the laborer was applying caulking to the expansion joints of a block wall, and the pipefitter and the utility foreman were installing piping for the building's sprinkler system... [READ THE FULL REPORT](#) (p.3)

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Key contributing factors identified in this investigation include:

- Deviation from engineering drawings
- Inadequate inspection of rebar placement
- Inadequate bracing for the block wall
- Wall height extending too far above the bracing [LEARN MORE](#) (p.9)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

NIOSH investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Ensure that employees follow the engineering/architectural drawings during building construction and obtain engineering approval before plan changes are made.
- Develop and follow a masonry wall bracing plan, train employees on proper masonry wall bracing, and ensure masonry walls are properly braced throughout the project.
- Develop and implement a restricted/limited access zone. [LEARN MORE](#) (p.9)

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/face](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face)





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