

9. Struck by Concrete Wall

A **37-year-old** employee was killed when a concrete wall of a building under construction fell on him. The victim was working in an excavation installing a water line near the east wall of the building under construction. The excavation ran parallel to the wall and was about 15 feet away. The victim and two co-workers were standing along the east wall of the excavation putting together fittings for a backflow preventer. Suddenly, a gust of wind came through and blew the east wall of the building over towards the East side of the construction site. The collapsed east wall fell onto the excavation and pinned the victim between the wall and the ground. He was apparently killed instantly. One of the co-workers in the excavation was struck and was severely injured but survived; the other co-worker was able to avoid being struck and was not injured. Approximately two weeks before the fatality, the east wall had been braced with three wooden braces on the inside and three on the outside of the wall. During the fatality investigation, it appeared that the three inside braces were in place when the wall fell, but two of the three outside braces were not in place.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 1926.21(b)(2)	The employer did not instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.
Item 1926.706(a)(1)	The limited access zone was not established prior to the start of construction of the wall.
Item 3 1926.706(b)	All masonry walls over eight feet in height were not adequately braced to prevent overturning and to prevent collapse, and/or bracing did not remain in place until permanent supporting elements of the structure were in place.

