

Safety Bulletin No.	2019 / 02	Date Issued	16 th January 2019
Subject	Masonry wall safety – during construction		
Area of Concern	Stability of walls prior to core filling & grout curing		
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Background

This wet season we have had two block walls fail from relatively light wind loads compared to the wind speeds we can experience at this time of year. Fortunately, no-one has been injured although the cost to repair is not insignificant.



Contributing factors

- Walls lacked the lateral support
- Wind or other lateral loadings.
- Reduced mortar strength in new walls.

Actions

Ensure the stability of masonry walls during construction or demolition work, by:

- Prior to construction identifying walls that will need temporary support during construction & include temporary support locations & designs in the construction drawings.
- Sequencing construction so that masonry walls are constructed at the same time as cross walls or returns so they provide lateral support to each other. This may limit the amount of temporary bracing required.
- Limiting the height of each lift to avoid overloading green masonry.
- Providing additional temporary support for lintels or other structural elements that place concentrated loads onto green masonry.
- Avoid placing lateral loads on walls not yet secured into the structure, eg - do not lean materials against the walls.
- When extreme weather is forecast or identified, cease work in the area of incomplete wall structures & establish a suitable exclusion zone.
- Do not seek shelter behind walls of incomplete structures during extreme weather events, even if temporary supports are in place.

THINK SAFELY, ACT SAFELY