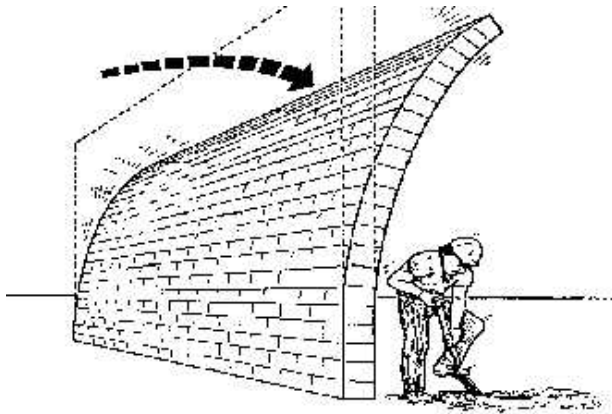


Work **Safe!** Bulletin

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TEMPORARY BRACING FOR MASONRY WALLS



During construction, masonry walls lack the support provided by integral elements of the completed structure. When an unbraced or poorly braced masonry wall is blown over by the wind, it may result in extensive damage to property and equipment, serious injury or even loss of life. Temporary bracing must be installed to adequately support the wall until permanent structural members are in place.

NOTE: At a provincial fatal inquest into the failure of a masonry wall resulting in the death of a worker, the judge recommended that steel rebars be designed into the footings of free-standing masonry walls to provide additional support for the walls.

Manitoba Construction Regulations under **THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT** requires the following:

1. Temporary structure to be supported

Where necessary, every employer shall cause a temporary or unfinished structure to be adequately braced or supported to resist all expected loads that may be applied.

2. Design and construction of temporary support system

Every employer shall cause a temporary support system to be designed, constructed, used and maintained to withstand all loads likely to be imposed on the structure, including loadings generated by wind pressures.

3. Employer to provide design drawings

Where requested by a safety and health officer, an employer shall provide to the safety and health officer a copy of the drawings and any supplementary information required for the design of a temporary support system.

4. Approval by professional engineer

Every employer shall cause the design to be approved by a professional engineer and the drawings and any supplementary information shall:

- a) show the dimensions and specifications, including the type and grade, of all components of the support system;
- b) show the loads for which the support system is designed;
- c) bear the seal and signature of the professional engineer; and
- d) be kept at the project site during the construction, erection, use, maintenance and dismantling of the support system.

5. Employer to construct in accordance with design

Every employer shall construct, use, erect, maintain, and dismantle a temporary support system in accordance with the approved design described above.

