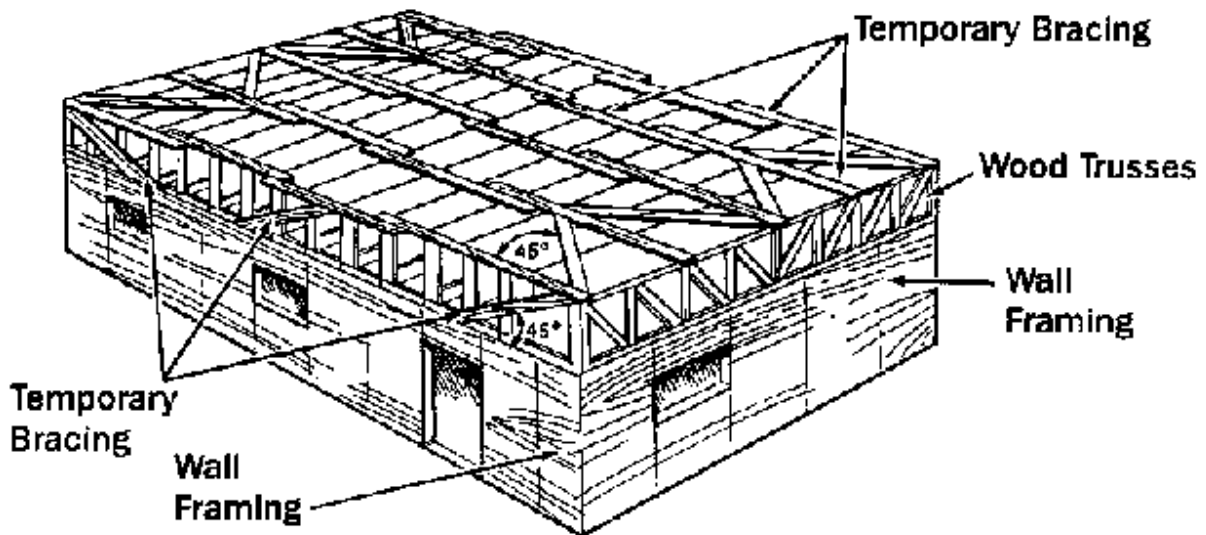


Work **Safe!** Bulletin

BRACING OF WOOD TRUSSES

Bulletin No.: 121
April 1999



A serious accident involving the failure of wood trusses has reinforced the need to ensure that wood trusses are properly supported during the installation of these structural members.

NOT BRACED PROPERLY

Workers were moving wood trusses that had previously been erected on to the wall framing structure of a one-storey building under construction. A group of six trusses that were supporting a lift of plywood collapsed, seriously injuring a worker below. The wood trusses had not been provided with proper temporary bracing to ensure that they remained stable in all directions. The additional loading condition resulting from the plywood decking set on the trusses made the situation that much worse.

PROPER ERECTION PROCEDURES REQUIRED

1. The employer shall obtain proper instructions from the manufacturer of the trusses on the handling, erecting, positioning, and bracing of the trusses.
2. The employer shall instruct workers on the correct procedures outlined in step 1 and ensure that an experienced supervisor directs the truss erection.
3. The employer shall ensure that trusses are handled, erected, and braced in accordance with the supplier's instructions. Trusses must be braced so that any anticipated loading condition that occurs during final decking does not affect the structural capacity of the trusses. This includes proper lateral bracing for compression members of the truss.
4. Any temporary loads, such as decking material, that are to be placed on the truss must be approved by the manufacturer of the trusses or a professional engineer.