

# Fatality Narrative

## Contractor Struck By Falling Wall Section\*

**Industry:** Residential construction  
**Occupation:** Contractor/carpenter  
**Task:** Raising wall section with wall jacks  
**Type of Incident:** Struck by

**Release Date:** December 22, 2005  
**Case No.:** 05WA05201  
**SHARP Report No.:** 71-42-2005

On September 6, 2005, a contractor was killed when wall jacks being used to lift a section of wall failed and he was struck by the falling wall. The 41-year-old victim did "pick-up" type construction work. He was hired by an acquaintance to build a single family residence. He was not a registered contractor nor did he have a business license. On the day of the incident, the victim and a laborer that he had hired were attempting to raise a 14'x 9' framed and sheathed gabled wall section to be put in place on the house's second floor. They were using two wall jacks to lift the section into place. As they were jacking-up the wall section, the 2"x 4"s being used snapped and the wall section fell, striking the victim and trapping him underneath the wall. The laborer stepped to the side and narrowly missed being struck. The victim died at the scene.

### Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- Do not overload wall jacks. Know their load rating and calculate the weight of the wall to be lifted.
- Consider the maximum weight of walls before raising. Unsheathed sections with just the framing will be lighter. Wet wood is heavier than dry wood, and any extra water weight should be considered.
- ! Use and install adequate bracing for the job.
- Use a crane or other appropriate lifting devices for raising heavy wall sections.
- Use straight grain wood free of defects and knots for wall jack poles.
- Secure the bottom plate of the wall to prevent horizontal sliding during the lift.
- ! Employers and employees need to be trained and knowledgeable about measures necessary to address hazards associated with frame construction.

**State Wide Statistics:** This was the 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 75 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2005 to date, and was the 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7 construction-related fatalities to date.

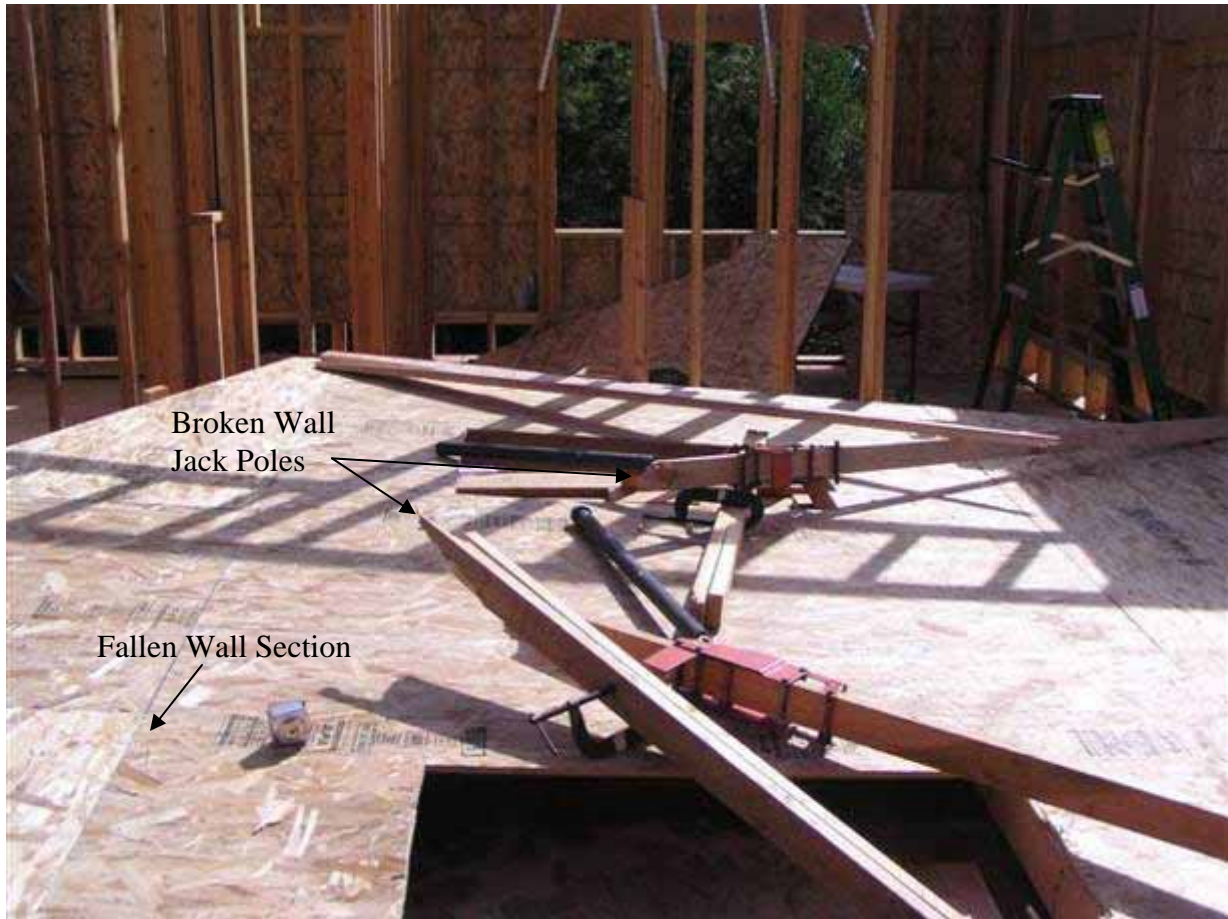
---

*This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Programs at the WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.

# Fatality Narrative

## Contractor Struck By Falling Wall Section\*



---

*This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Programs at the WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.