

Property Damage Falling Brick Tower



Activity: Building Demolition

A contractor was removing a 62ft. high brick tower of an old fire house. With the fire house portion of the demo complete, the contractor intended to demo the brick tower by removing several top sections by hand, then using a grappler to complete the demo. This changed when the contractor found the top section (Roof) was made of concrete. The contractor attempted to pull the top concrete section down with wire rope attached to an excavator when the base of the tower collapsed. The brick tower fell east striking and damaging a beam of another facility.



Direct Cause:

Failure to use proper equipment and approach for demolition.

Indirect Causes:

- AHA did not detail the hazards.
- No FEAD notification before starting critical activity
- No EM-385-1-1 required Engineering and Demolition Plan signed by a Registered Professional Engineer
- No ORM adjustment made when conditions changed

Lessons Learned:

- Ensure an Engineering and Demolition Plan is provided by a Registered Professional Engineer.
- AHA must be site specific for each definable feature of work, and all control measures must be followed.
- Ensure diligence in all three phases of QA / QC