

## Framer Struck by Falling Wall Section

### INCIDENT FACTS

**REPORT #:** 71-195-2020s

**REPORT DATE:** May 15, 2020

**INCIDENT DATE:** March 3, 2019

**VICTIM:** 38 years old

**INDUSTRY:** New Single-Single Family Housing  
Construction

**OCCUPATION:** Framer

**SCENE:** Two-story residential construction  
site

**EVENT TYPE:** Struck by/Crushed



A 38-year-old framer was severely injured during the raising of a wall when a section of the wall fell on him.

The framer had worked in the construction industry for fifteen years. This was his second day on the job with his employer, a new single-family housing construction contractor.

On the day of the incident the framer, a carpenter, and the crew leader were working at a two-story house construction site.

They were using wall jacks, 16-foot long 2x4 poles, and self-supporting ladders to raise a sheeted wood frame exterior wall on the upper floor of the house.

The wall was approximately 43 feet long by 13 feet high. The workers did not determine the weight of the wall prior to raising it, but after the incident the wall was estimated to weigh at least 1,000 lbs.

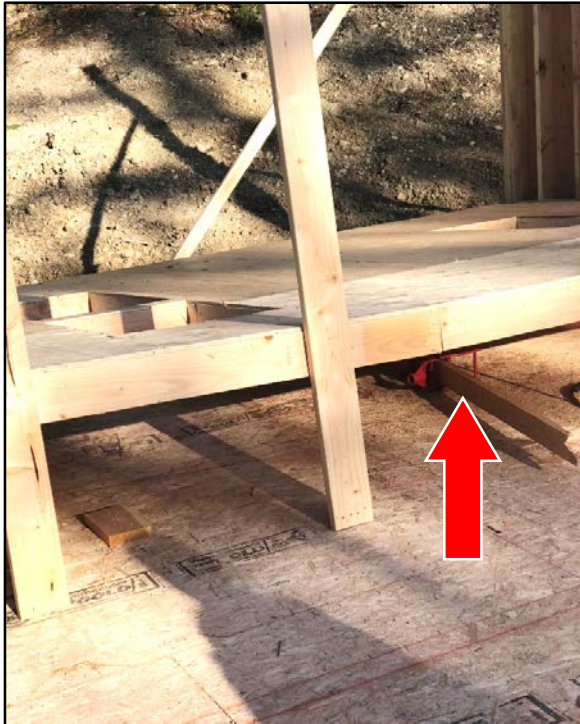
As they were raising the wall, the framer was working on one end of the wall, the crew leader on the other end, and the carpenter was in the middle. When they had raised it about eight feet, they stopped to place brace poles.

Their plan was to secure the wall with braces and then when other workers arrived on site they would push up the wall the rest of the way by hand.

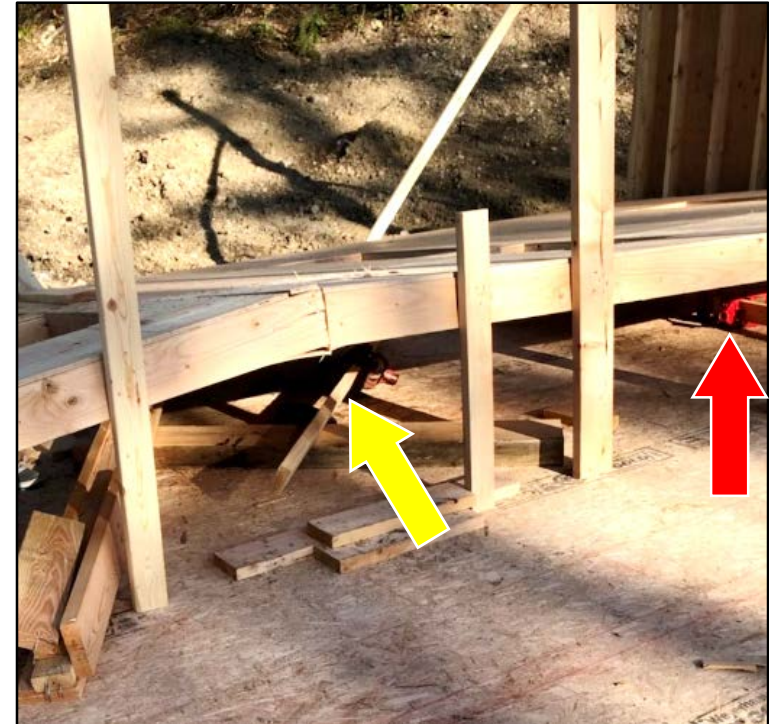
As the framer was securing a brace pole under the wall, the pole broke. The wall then fell in sections, with one section striking and crushing him underneath.

He suffered multiple fractures and internal injuries. The other workers were not injured.

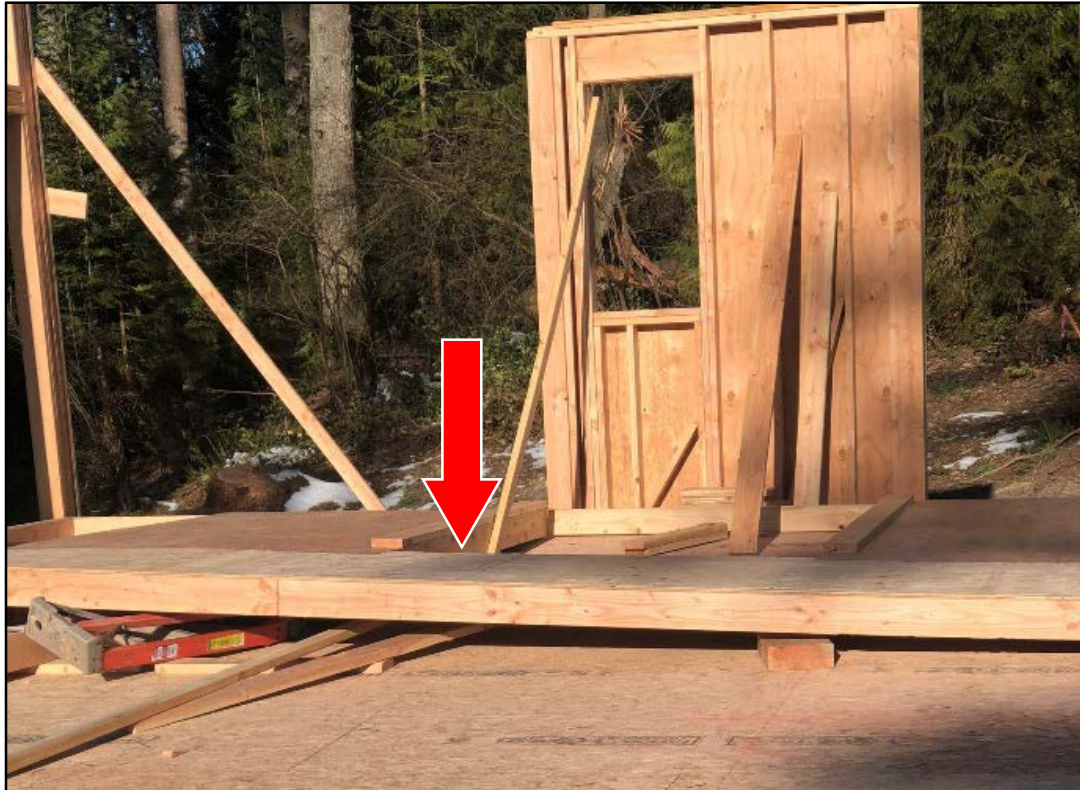
When work started again several days later, seven workers lifted the wall.



**Photo 1.** Section of the fallen wall where the framer was crushed. The arrow indicates the broken 2x4 brace pole with wall jack.



**Photo 2.** Another view of the section of the fallen wall. The red arrow indicates the broken 2x4 brace pole that broke. The yellow indicates another brace pole.



**Photo 3.** Section of fallen sheathed wood frame exterior wall at the two-story house construction site. This was the location where the crew leader was working. He was not injured.



**Photo 4.** Panoramic view of wall that had fallen. The wall was approximately 43 feet long by 13 feet high.



## **Requirements**

As part of their accident prevention program, employers must conduct safety meetings at the beginning of each job, and at least weekly thereafter. These safety meetings must be tailored to the particular operation.

See [WAC 296-155-110\(5\)](#).

## **Recommendations**

- Develop a wall-raising plan before construction begins.
- Use a competent person to consider and supervise all aspects of the lifting operation.
- Train employees on proper procedures for wall raising.

## **Recommendations**

- Determine the weight of the wall before raising it.
- Conduct a “pre-lift” meeting to determine the safest method for raising a wall.
- When raising a wall, always stand behind the wall jack pole. Never stand under the wall.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions and guidance on the use and maintenance of wall jacks.

## **Recommendations**

- Inspect all wall jack equipment, including the wall jack pole, before and after each use to be sure there is no damage or deformation to any of the equipment.
- If it is safe to lift the wall manually and that is the method chosen, ensure that a sufficient number of workers are continually assisting while the wall is being raised to prevent the wall from falling back onto them.

*This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a serious traumatic injury of a worker in Washington State and 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 injury.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Washington State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant# 5U60OH008487). For more information visit [www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-research/ongoing-projects/work-related-fatalities-face](http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-research/ongoing-projects/work-related-fatalities-face).