

Property Damage

Falling Brick Tower



- **Building Demolition**

- **Activity:** The contractor was tasked to remove an old fire house and a 62 foot high brick tower. This tower was used to hang fire hoses to dry. The fire house portion of demo was complete. The contractor had indicated his initial plan to demo the brick tower was to remove several top sections by hand, then use a grappler to complete the demo. This plan 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.

- **Injury:** None

- **Direct Cause:**

- Failure to use proper equipment and approach for demolition.

- **Indirect Causes:**

- AHA did not detail the hazards.

- Contractor did not notify FEAD prior to starting this critical activity.

- Failure to provide an Engineering and Demolition Plan by a Registered Professional Engineer as required by EM385 1-1

- **Lessons Learned:**

- Ensure a Engineering and Demolition Plan is provided by a Registered Professional Engineer.

- AHA must be site specific for each definable feature of work and must ensure all control measures are followed.

- Ensure diligence is followed in all three phases of QA / QC.

Information is Preliminary. Investigation is ongoing