

04
October
2023

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENTS

Worker found semi-conscious with head injury

On 2 May 2023, a worker who had completed erecting a wall in a worksite was found beside the wall semi-conscious and with head injuries. The worker was sent to the hospital where he died the same day.

Preliminary findings indicate that the worker could have collapsed and struck his head against the ground.

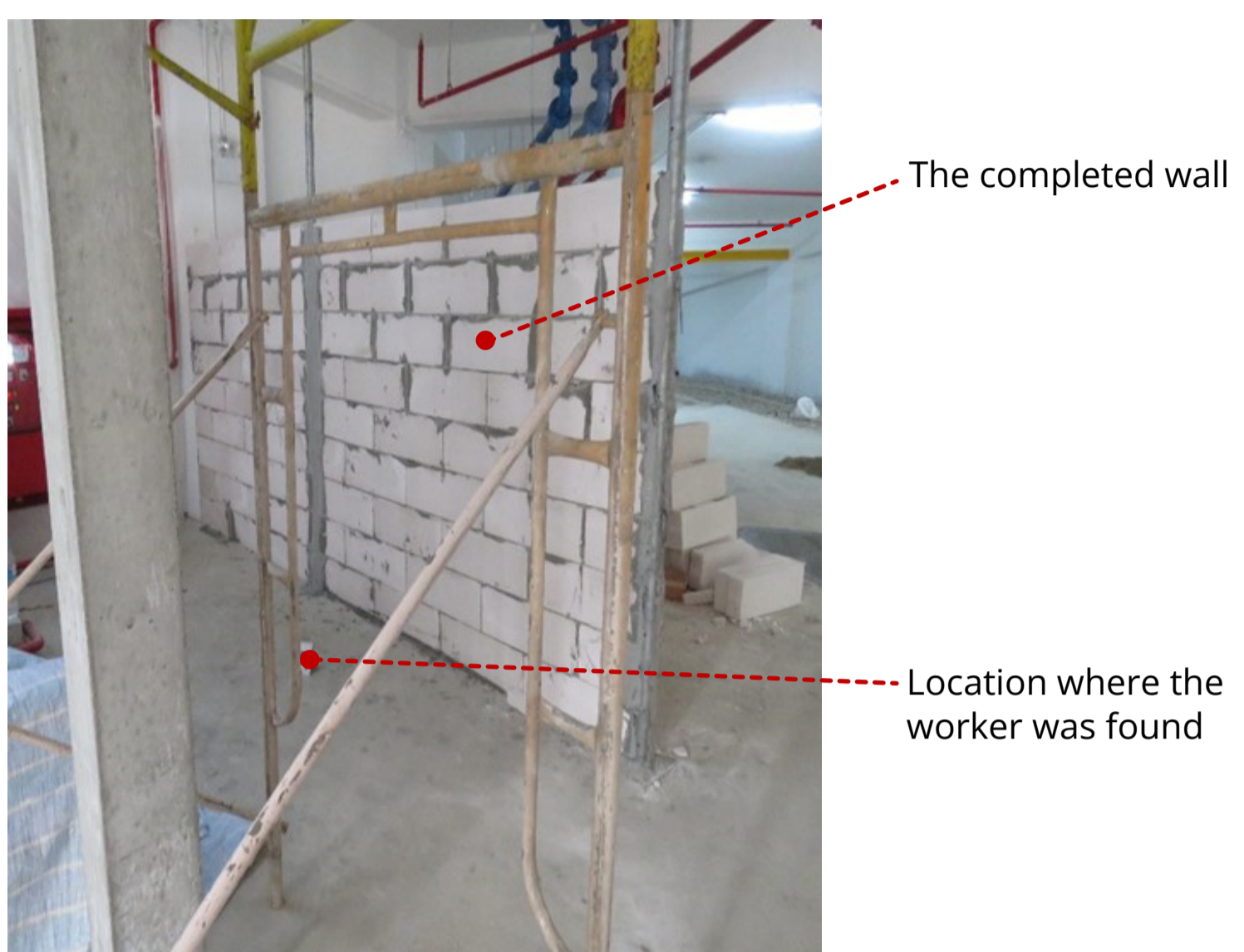


Figure 1: Scene of the accident.

Construction workers may be exposed to various workplace hazards due to the nature of their work. The WSH Council calls on all companies taking on similar work activities to put in place the necessary measures to protect the health and safety of workers.

What companies should do

Companies should assess and ensure that their WSH management system includes the following measures or checks:

- **Worker health:** Before starting work, check that workers: (i) are fit to carry out the assigned task; (ii) are feeling well; and (iii) have enough time for meals and medication needed to manage chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. These conditions may cause dizziness or loss of consciousness if not well-managed with medication.
- **Workplace housekeeping:** Ensure that the worksite is kept as dry as possible and free of materials / debris to prevent slips and trips.
- **Protect against falling objects:** Loose materials and tools should be removed from height or otherwise, properly secured to reduce the risk of being struck by falling objects.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Instruct workers to put on their safety helmet with chin strap while at all work areas where head injuries are possible. Equip workers with anti-slip safety shoes.

For more information, refer to the WSH Council's [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), and [WSH Guidelines on Workplace Housekeeping](#).

Under the WSH Act, first-time corporate offenders may be sentenced to the maximum fine of \$500,000 whilst individuals can either be sentenced to the maximum fine of \$200,000 and/or an imprisonment not exceeding 2 years. Read more on the [WSH Act penalties](#).

Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 11 July 2023. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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