

# LIMITED ACCESS ZONES

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

A non-reinforced masonry wall under construction is never stable until it's tied in with other building elements, such as joists and trusses. It's like a sail in the wind. When a wall gets pushed over, it can crush people and objects in its path. That's why masonry subcontractors use temporary safeguards known as Limited Access Zones.

A Limited Access Zone is established by workers constructing a masonry wall to keep other trades out of the area until the wall is properly braced or tied in with the rest of the structure. The area gets cordoned off with tape, flagging or other materials to alert others of the danger. Only those persons actually building the wall are allowed in.

- The zone is usually established before the wall goes up. An area equal to **the height of the wall plus four feet**, is established and runs the entire length of the wall. Many contractors stake the zone's perimeter and run warning tape or flagging at approximately waist level to clearly mark the area.
- The zone is established for the side of the wall which won't be scaffolded.
- The zone should stay in place until the wall is tied in with other building elements that will prevent it from overturning or collapsing.
- If a wall exceeds eight (8) feet in height, it must have a limited access zone but also be **physically braced**.
- How you brace is critical. Before you build, the size and spacing of the bracing members should be determined by someone qualified to make the necessary calculations. It's not a simple matter left to chance.

In principle, a Limited Access Zone is probably one of the easiest precautions to take, and yet it's one of the hardest to maintain. The workers it is designed to protect often walk through it or begin working there. Very often the masonry subcontractor has no control over those trades.

### YOUR COURSE OF ACTION

- Before you begin to construct a wall, tell the site manager about your limited access zone requirements.
- If other contractor's employees enter the zone, make sure their supervisors are informed that the zone is established for their protection.
- Keep the site manager informed if the unauthorized entry continues.

### LIMITED ACCESS ZONE

Not to be confused with Controlled Access Zone, the Limited Access Zone shall be equal to the height of the wall to be constructed, plus four (4) feet, and shall run the entire length of the wall.



# LIMITED ACCESS ZONES FORM

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

### **SUPERVISOR OBSERVATIONS**

List the hazards which the supervisor has observed since the previous safety meeting and the remedies used to correct them.

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### **WORKERS OBSERVATIONS**

List the hazards which the worker has observed since the previous safety meeting and the remedies used to correct them.

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