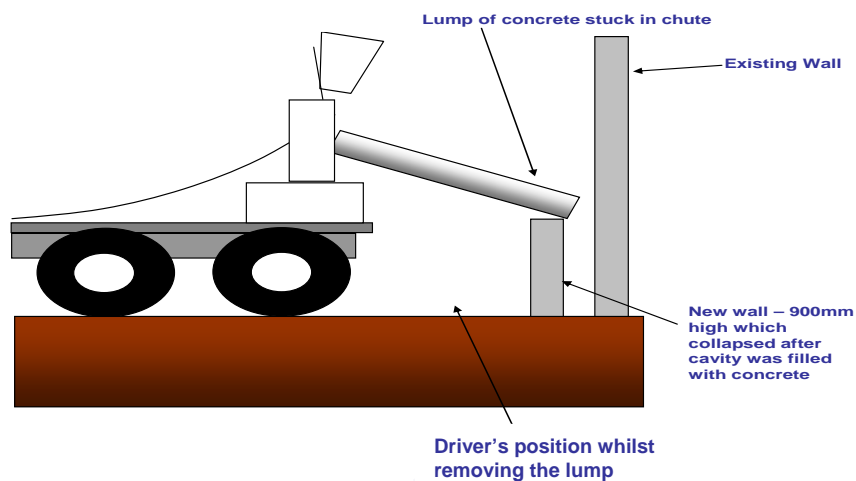


# UK Safety Alert

## Truckmixer Driver hit by Collapsing Wall

### Details of the Incident

A Haulage Contractor suffered injuries to his right leg and ankle during a delivery when the outer leaf of a cavity wall he was filling with concrete collapsed. During the process of filling the cavity, the truck mixer driver noticed his delivery chute had become blocked with a lump that was in the concrete. To clear the blockage, he moved away from the truck mixer controls and towards the end of delivery chute. Upon clearing the blockage the concrete flowed down the chute and it is believed that the sudden increase in pressure within the cavity contributed to the collapse of the outer leaf of the wall, which fell on to the mixer driver's right leg. The driver was taken to hospital where he was found to have suffered a multiple fracture to his right leg and ankle.



### Learning Points

The in-filling of cavity walls or backfilling behind retaining walls can be hazardous and this is particularly so if the wall is newly constructed and is not suitably braced. The site had an obligation to make the task safe by ensuring the wall could take the loading applied to it whilst filling.

- **The plan of how the material would be placed in the cavity was not fully discussed with site staff and there was no supervision by them.** Do all drivers apply “My Space” principles and identify potential hazards? Is backfilling undertaken at a slow enough rate to avoid excessive pressure on structures? Do drivers stop if they are uncertain and ask for advice? Are Drivers aware of the dangers of backfilling to walls?
- **There is a requirement under Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) to ensure the method of construction is safe.** When on construction sites Drivers (and other personnel) need to be aware of temporary / part finished structures and the potential for instability. If unsure then stop the task and seek advice before proceeding.