

CODE QUESTIONS ?

QUESTION?: “I have an existing building that I want to separate with a fire wall in order to build an addition. Can I build a fire wall next to an existing exterior wall and not be concerned about the existing wall collapsing and weakening the fire wall?”

ANSWER: THE DIRECTION of the collapse of the exterior wall should be inward (toward the existing building) if the structural members supporting the wall are attached to the exterior wall. The deflection of the supporting members will exert an inward force on the wall. The exterior wall will most probably collapse when the structural members supporting the wall either collapse or deflect sufficiently to pull the wall in.

IF THE STRUCTURAL members supporting the wall are not attached to the exterior wall, then the exterior wall collapse could be in either direction, however, if the fire wall is constructed immediately adjacent to the existing exterior wall, the exterior wall should be prevented from collapsing toward the fire wall and the only direction the wall can collapse would be inward. The fire wall may be struck by portions of the collapsing exterior wall, but should survive.

CODE UPDATE

KENTUCKY - A PARKING garage concrete wall that collapsed in Lexington, KY and fell and killed a pregnant woman has led to the state to call for inspections of all typical parking structures. The Chase Bank garage downtown was hit by a pick-up truck, pushing off an 8 ft. by 12 ft. concrete panel. Designed to withstand 6,000 lbs. of force, investigators believe connections between it and the column failed. The garage was built in 1975 under the *BOCA National Building Code*.

I.R.§. RULE§ ON ENERGY CREDIT§

ON JUNE 2 (My Birthday), The Internal Revenue Service issued an advance copy of a notice on how commercial building owners or leaseholders can qualify for a tax deduction for making their buildings energy efficient. The notice establishes a process to certify the required energy savings in order to claim the deduction. The commercial building deduction, which was enacted in the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*, allows taxpayers to deduct the cost of energy-efficient property installed in commercial buildings.



The amount deductible may be as much as \$1.80 per square foot of building floor area for buildings that achieve a 50% energy savings target. The notice provides that buildings below the 50% threshold may, nevertheless, qualify for a deduction of up to 60 cents s.f. of building floor area if they meet a 16% energy savings target.

Before claiming the deduction, the taxpayer must obtain a certification that the required energy savings will be achieved. The notice also announces that the Department of Energy will create and maintain a public list of software that must be used to calculate energy savings for purposes of providing the certification.