

Hazard: Structural Collapse & Falling Elements

Identity of Hazard(s): This includes the threat of whole dwelling collapse, or of an element or a part of the structure being displaced or falling because of inadequate fixing, disrepair, or as a result of adverse weather conditions. Externally, the hazard ranges from falling slates, eaves gutters, bricks or windows, to collapse of walls. Internally, it includes floor, ceiling and staircase collapse.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Bruising, fracture, head, brain and spinal injury¹

Health Alert! The most common incident is for a fixture, such as a light fitting or kitchen cabinet, to fall from the ceiling or wall, because of a combination of poor fixings and structural movement. However, the most common part of the fabric of buildings to fall and injure someone is ceiling plaster.¹

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take¹

- All openings to external walls should be constructed and maintained to be provide for proper distribution of the load above.
 - All external balconies and walkways should be designed, constructed and maintained so as to be capable of supporting their own weight and the imposed loads.
 - The roof structure should be strong enough to support the weight of the covering, and be securely fixed to cope with wind and weather imposed loads.
 - External pipework and gutters should be securely fixed and properly maintained.
 - Floors should be able to support their own weight as well as imposed loads of furniture, appliances, and occupants.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- If renting, call Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED): (313) 628-2451
- Detroit Planning and Development Department (CDBG Home Repair Program): (313) 224-3461
 - Must be homeowner with homeowners insurance and be current on property taxes
- Young Detroit Builders (for low cost carpentry): (313) 964-2763

¹http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf