

Catastrophic Events in Construction - What is the worst that can happen?

Examples of catastrophic events would be:

- Structural collapse of permanent structure
- Collapse of temporary works
- Collapse of plant such as cranes
- Major fire
- Tunnel collapse
- Disruption of underground services

Catastrophic events would be those having the following potential consequences:

- Potential for multiple deaths and serious injuries in a single incident
- Serious disruption of infrastructure (eg. road, rail) and/or services (eg. power, telecoms)

Also, such events may well have the following features:

- Ability to damage or even destroy organisations commercially, either directly or through loss of reputation.

Key Points

- Identify potentially catastrophic features of a project and consider risk management design methods with the team in a proportionate manner.



Dean Farrar Street building collapse (street view)

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