

## ***POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ROOF DEFECT MAY CAUSE COLLAPSE***

A potentially serious condition may exist in buildings constructed in the late 1950s through the early 1970s. Two buildings constructed in the late 1960s, a public school and a commercial building, were investigated by a member of CEC/M and CASE/MN after experiencing roof failures. The buildings had identical defects in the manufacture of the open web steel joists. This defect may result in a strength considerably less than required, and may result in structural collapse.

It is not possible to determine how many other buildings may have been constructed with this same joist defect. We believe it is in the public interest to notify parties concerned with the inspection, design, construction, renovation, maintenance and ownership of buildings of this possible defect.

The open web joists were manufactured by a Minneapolis fabricator from the late 1950s through the early 1970s. These potentially defective joists have a splice in their single angle bottom chord which does not develop the required strength. These joists are no longer produced and the company that fabricated them has not manufactured open web joists for several years.

The enclosed sketch will help illustrate the configuration of the joist that may contain the defective splice. We believe it is important that any building or building addition constructed within the time frame given above be inspected to determine the type of construction and the configuration of any joists used in the roof or floor systems. If joists resembling the type shown in the enclosed sketch are discovered, we recommend that you notify a building official and structural engineer immediately.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota at 952/593-5533.

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CONTACT: David Oxley

952/333-7101

Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota (CEC/M) and

Council of American Structural Engineers/Minnesota (CASE/MN)