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ICRI 2023 Fall Convention



# Maintaining Structural Safety and Avoiding Defects a Part of the the Pre-Planning Process

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*Structural Group*



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# *What is Structural Safety?*

Avoiding a structural collapse

- **Overloading**
- **Shoring errors**
- **Major defects- design, workmanship, materials**
- **Demolition, coring, etc.**

Damaging the structure

- **From same items above**

Ensuring that the structure is repaired to the designed capacity

Structural Safety issues that create personnel safety for people onsite during construction

# Maintaining Structural Safety as Part of the Pre-Planning Process

## GOAL:

1. Recognize structural problems before they occur by knowing the typical errors that cause them
2. If problems occur, recognize typical signs of structural distress (understanding structural cracks vs non-structural)
3. How to incorporate Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process

# AGENDA

## **Most common contributors to Structural Safety situations**

How is reinforced/PT concrete designed- Eng. 101 for Contractors

Safe loading of structures during construction- OVERLOAD

Understanding the purpose of typical steel placement

What if that steel is set in the wrong place?

- Too high, low or close

Avoiding concrete placement errors- Honeycombs & Voids

Structural Safety issues to avoid when:

- Cutting, coring, chipping, drilling concrete

Avoiding Shoring/Re-shoring & early loading of slab errors

Repair strategies if Structural Safety or defects occur

How do we incorporate Structural Safety in your Pre-planning

Process

## Proper Shoring & Re-shoring



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# Overloading Structures With Construction Materials, Equipment and Debris *With No Preplanning*



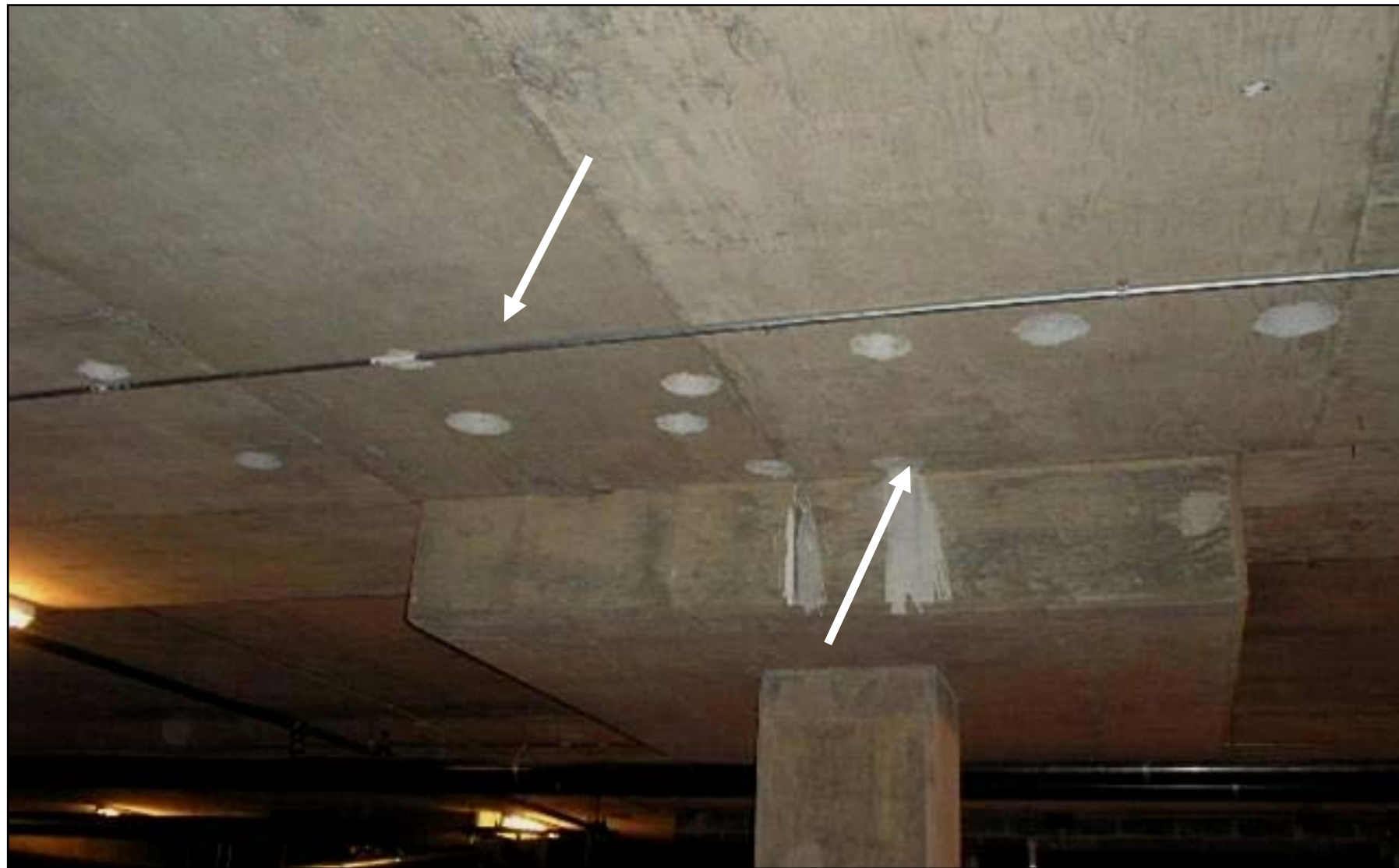
# Pre-Pour Checklist

## *With No Sign Off*





# Cut, Core, Chip, and Drill Concrete *With NO Preplanning to Avoid Structural Safety Problems*



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## Maintaining Structural Safety Starts With These CONCEPTS:

- For structural problems there is no such thing as a *“Little Mistake”*
- On almost every project w/major structural defect someone said:
  - “I have built this before & something looks different this time...”*
  - “I knew something was wrong BUT I am not a structural engineer...”*
  - or *“I was told it was OK”*



**NOT ASKING OUR PEOPLE TO MAKE LDP DECISIONS  
WE ALL HAVE PERSONAL TRAINING SAFETY PROGRAMS  
BASED ON A SEE SOMETHING-SAY SOMETHING CONCEPT  
DO THE SAME FROM A STRUCTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

# AGENDA

What are the most common defects?

**How is reinforced/PT concrete designed- Eng. 101 for Contractors**

**Safe loading of structures during construction- OVERLOADING**

Understanding the purpose of typical steel placement

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Incorporating Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process

# How is Reinforced Concrete Designed?

“How do you design a slab that **SPAN** 30 feet and can carry 60psf **LOAD**”

**Equilibrium**  
Section Properties

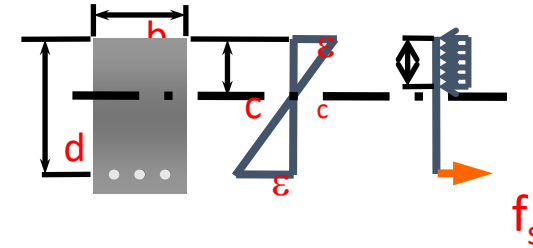
**Moment**

“Yield”  
 $\Sigma f + 3\sigma$

**$WL^2/24$**

$\pi$

**Strain Compatibility**



Basic engineering concepts are *not complex*

*Basic mechanics* can explain most engineering concepts

*Explain them today using a Foam Beam* instead of Formulas

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE AND IS THERE A PROCEEDURE?  
Someone with the your company GC, Sub, EOR, Inspector?

**Safety Rule**





# Typical Loads and Safety Factors in Concrete Design

- Standard Live Loads:
- Parking= 50psf
- Condo = 60psf
- Office = 60-100psf
- Lobby = 100psf
- Mech/Elect= 150-200psf
- Plaza Deck= 250psf
- Constr. Loads= 25-50psf**
- New/Green Concrete**

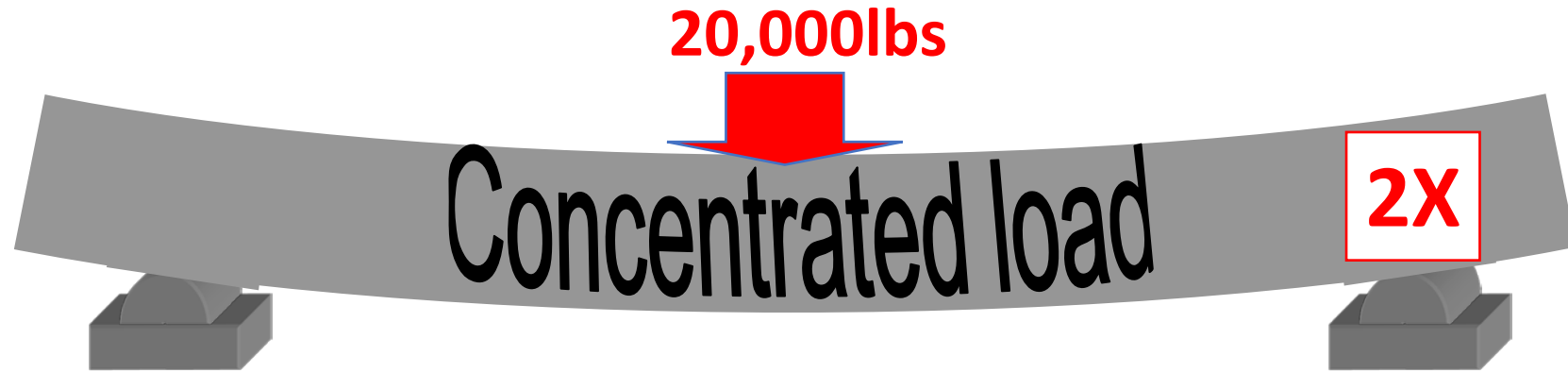


## Safety Factors:

$$\underline{1.6LL} + \underline{1.2DL} = \text{Ultimate Capacity}$$

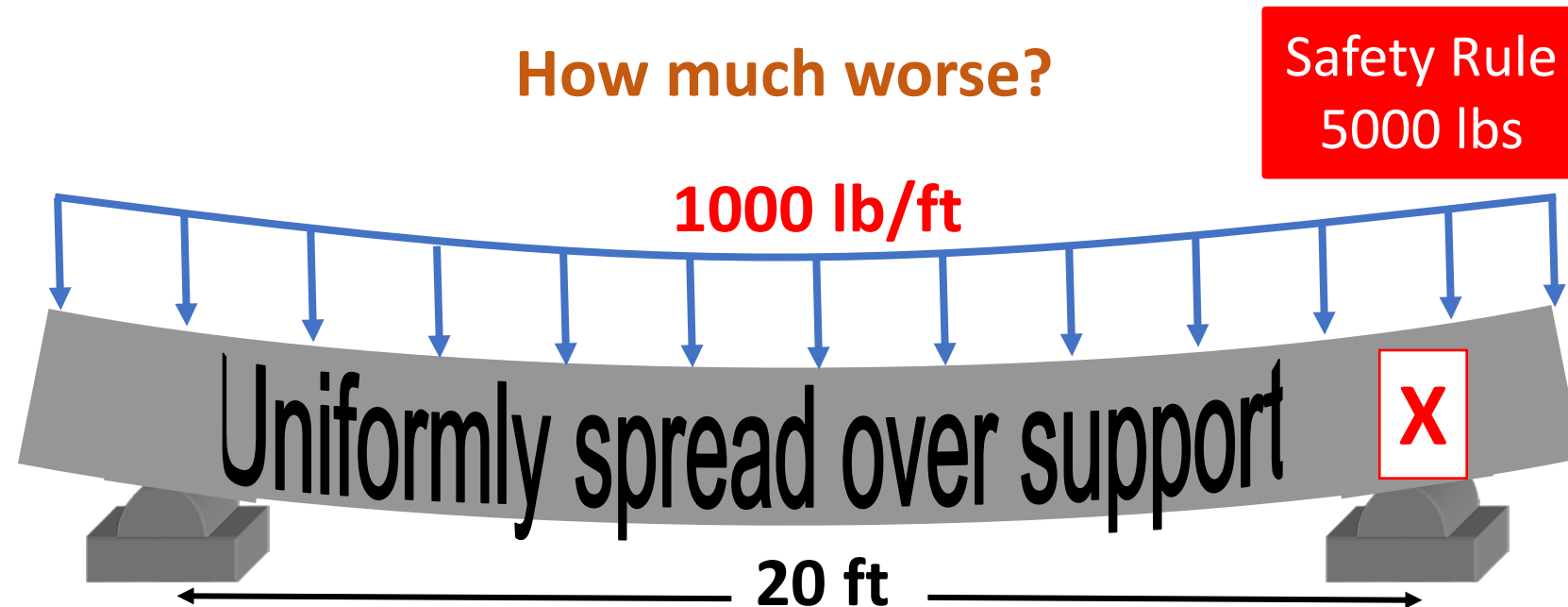
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# Uniform Loads Are Different Than Concentrated Loads



Which is worse?

How much worse?



# Need a Structural Safety Planning for Staging Materials



Uniform-1X



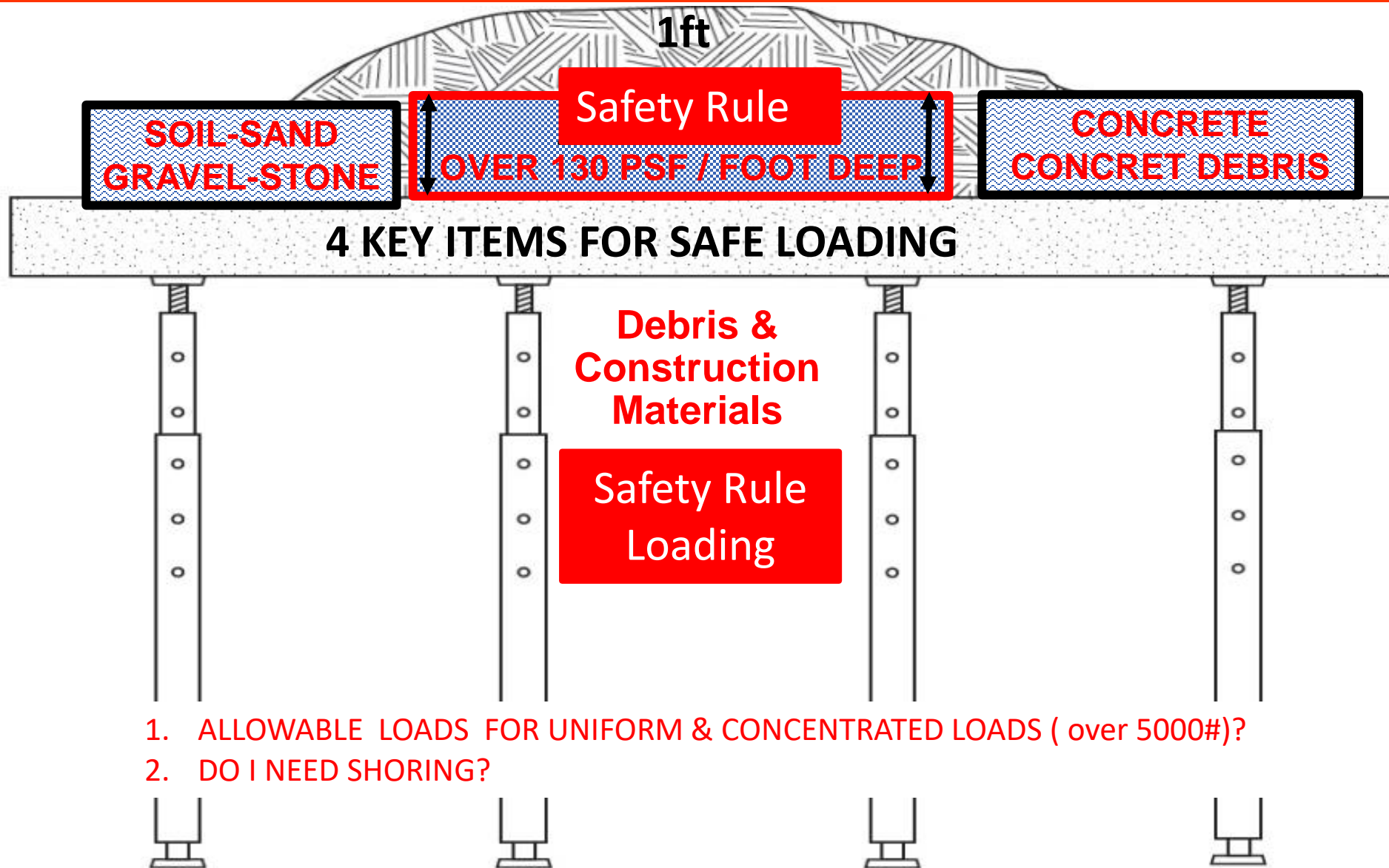
Concentrated- 2X

Ever have this happen?

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? DO YOU HAVE A PRE-PLANNING PROCESS?**

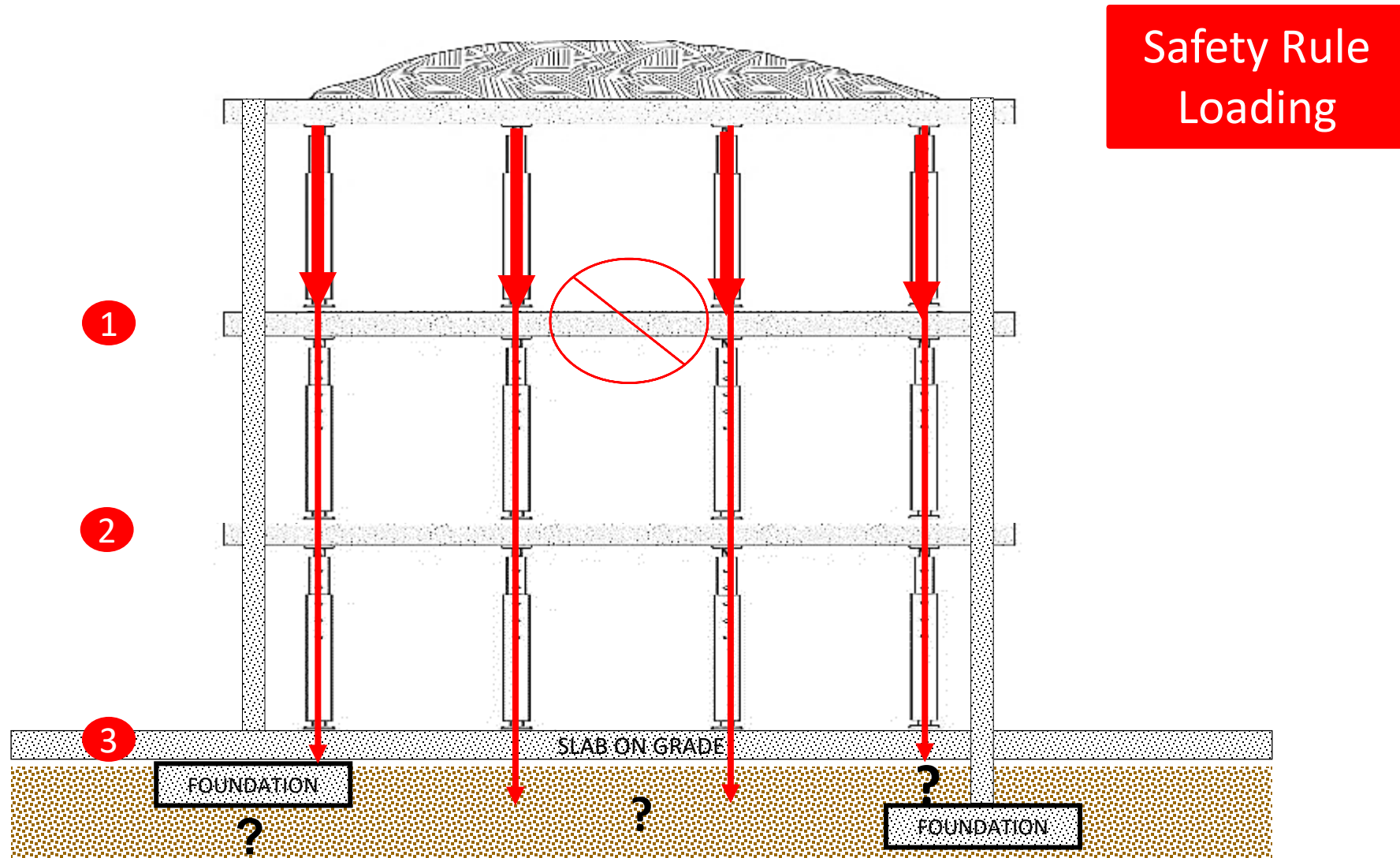


# HOW DO I DETERMINE ALLOWABLE LOADING?...ASK an ENGINEER!



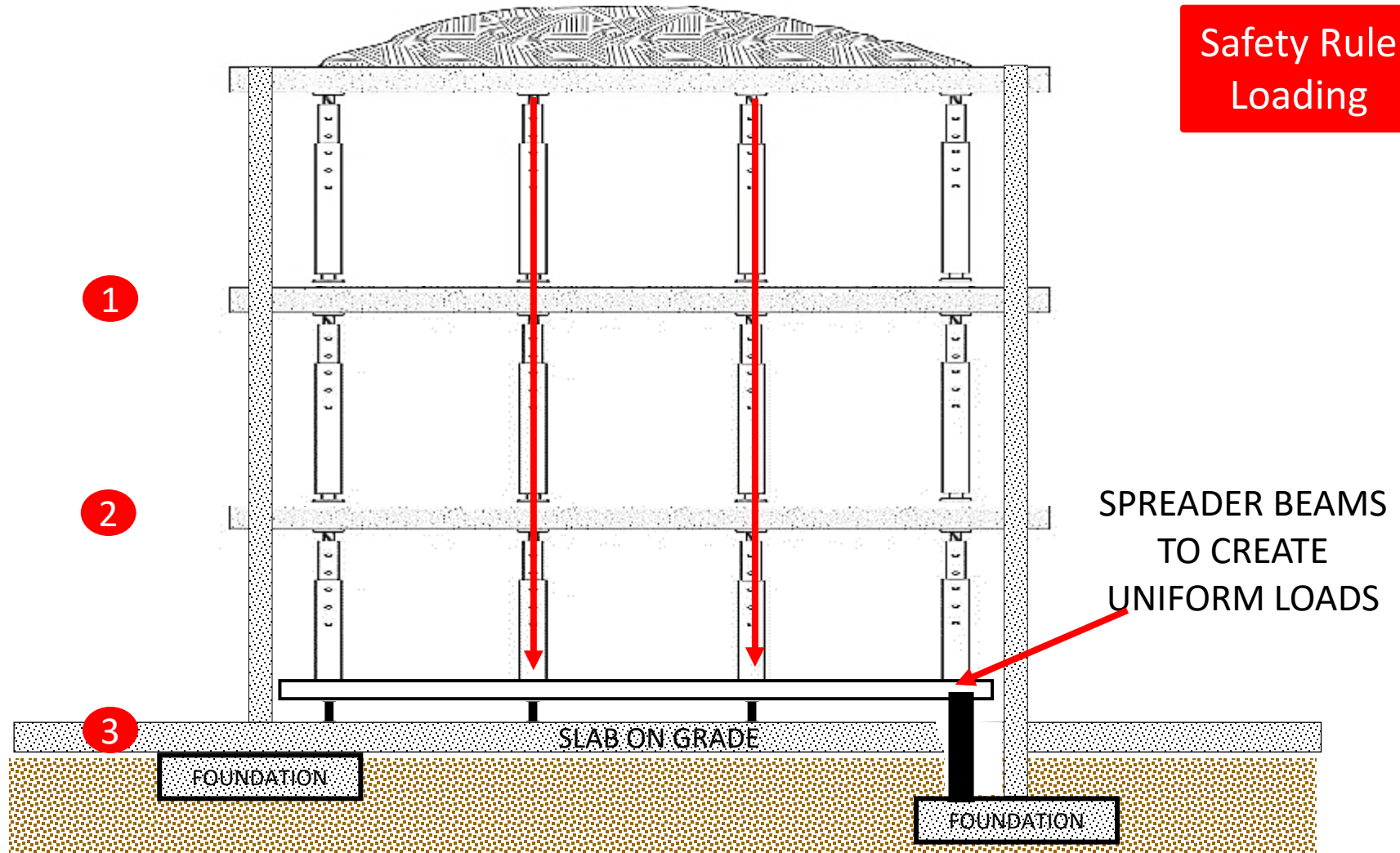
# HOW DO I DETERMINE ALLOWABLE LOADING?...ASK an ENGINEER!

## 3. DO I NEED MULTIPLE LEVELS OF SHORING?



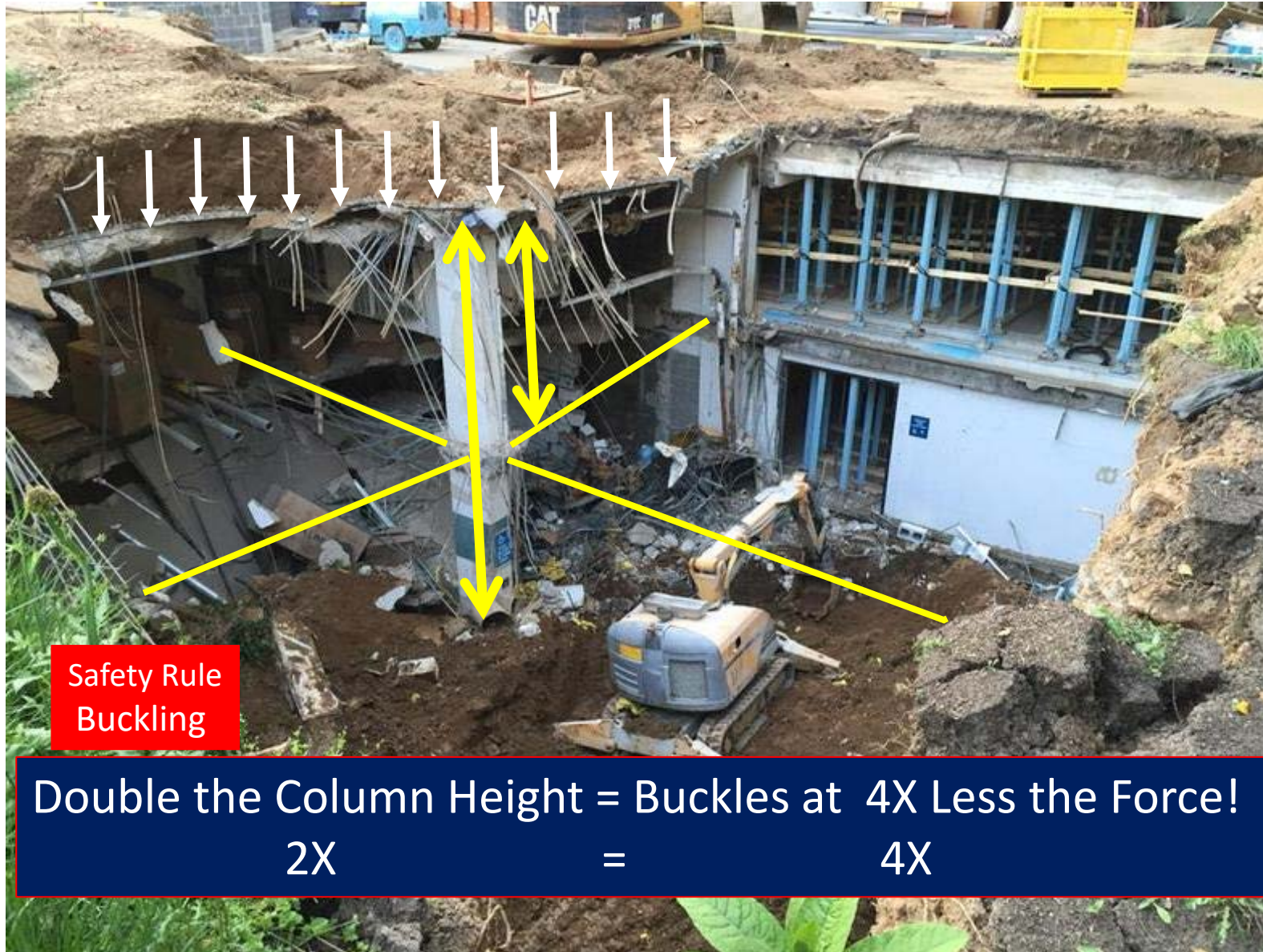
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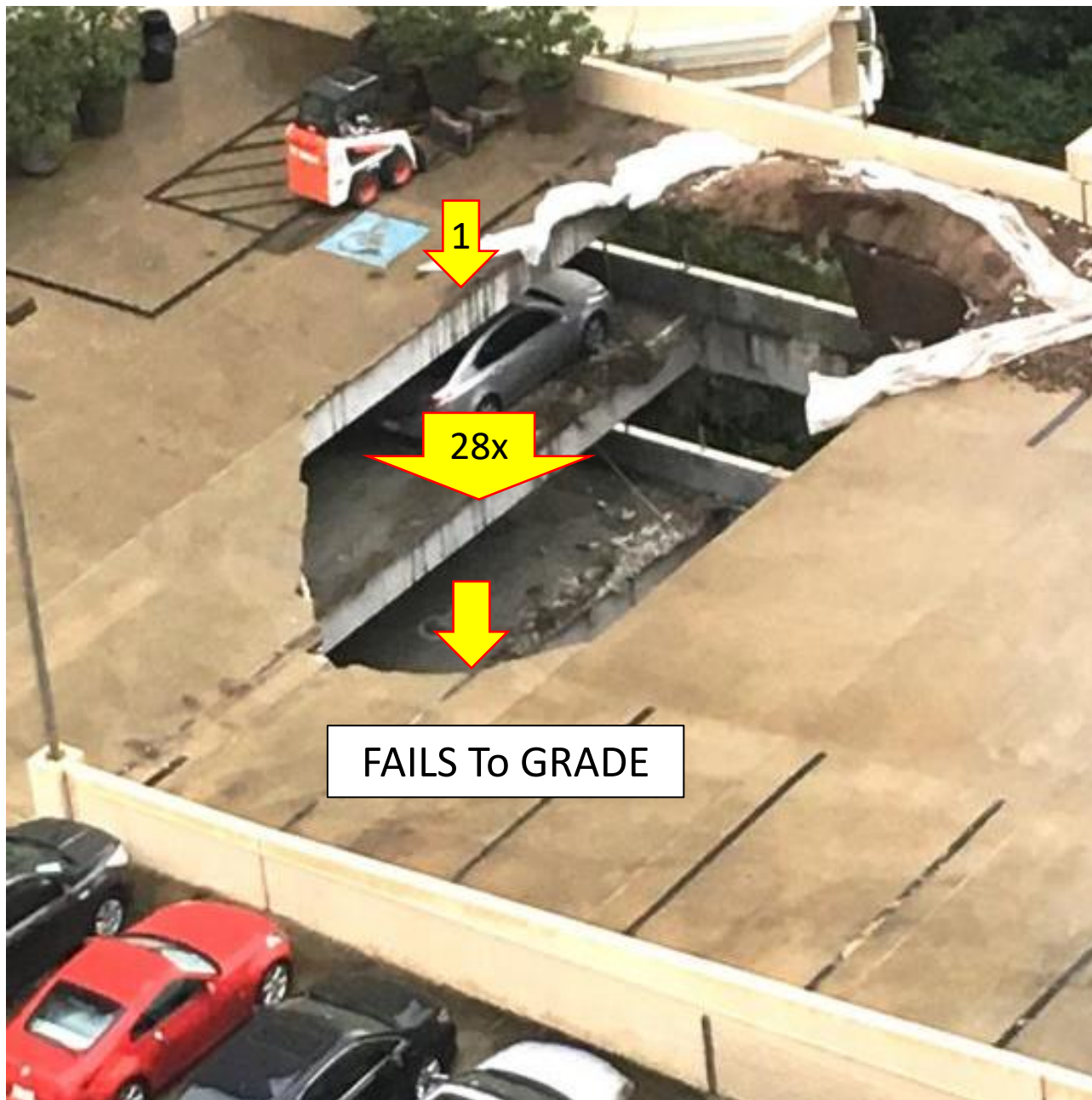
## 4. DO I NEED TO SPREAD THE LOAD OUT AT THE BOTTOM ?





# Slab Overload Failures & Column Buckling Can Happen!





**Construction  
Overloading**

**“Progressive  
Collapse”**



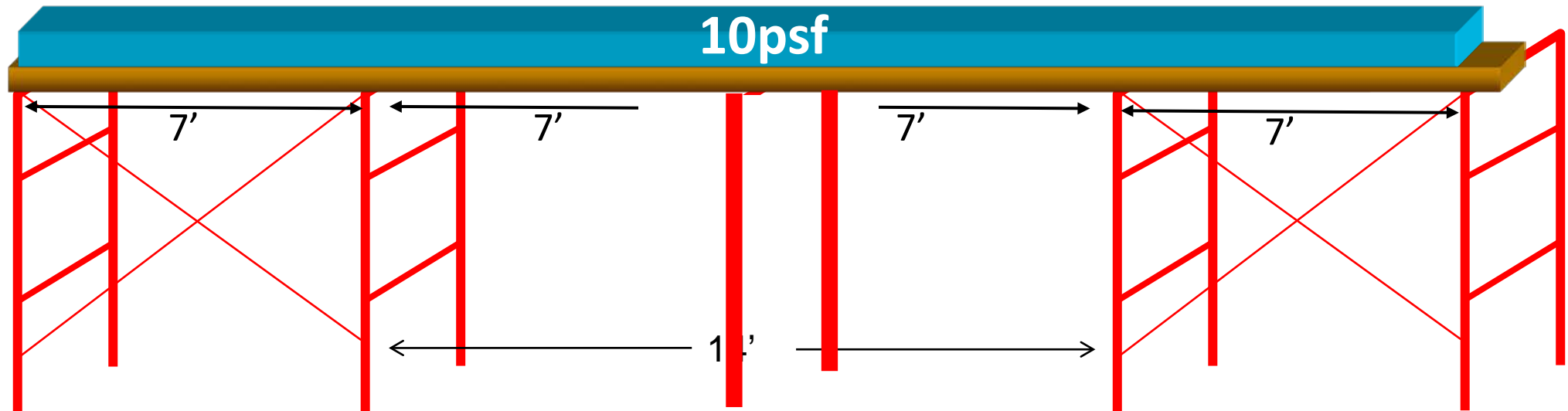
# What is the Structural Effect of INCREASING Span Length

EXAMPLE: Continuous Scaffold PLATFORM on 7-foot span Frames with 10 PSF Load

Force on each 7 foot span =  $WL^2/24$  (W= Load, L= Span)  
= Load X Span X Span ÷ 24

$$10\text{psf} \times 7' \times 7' \div 24 = \underline{20}$$

$$10\text{psf} \times 14' \times 14' \div 24 = \underline{80}$$



Safety Rule  
+ Spans

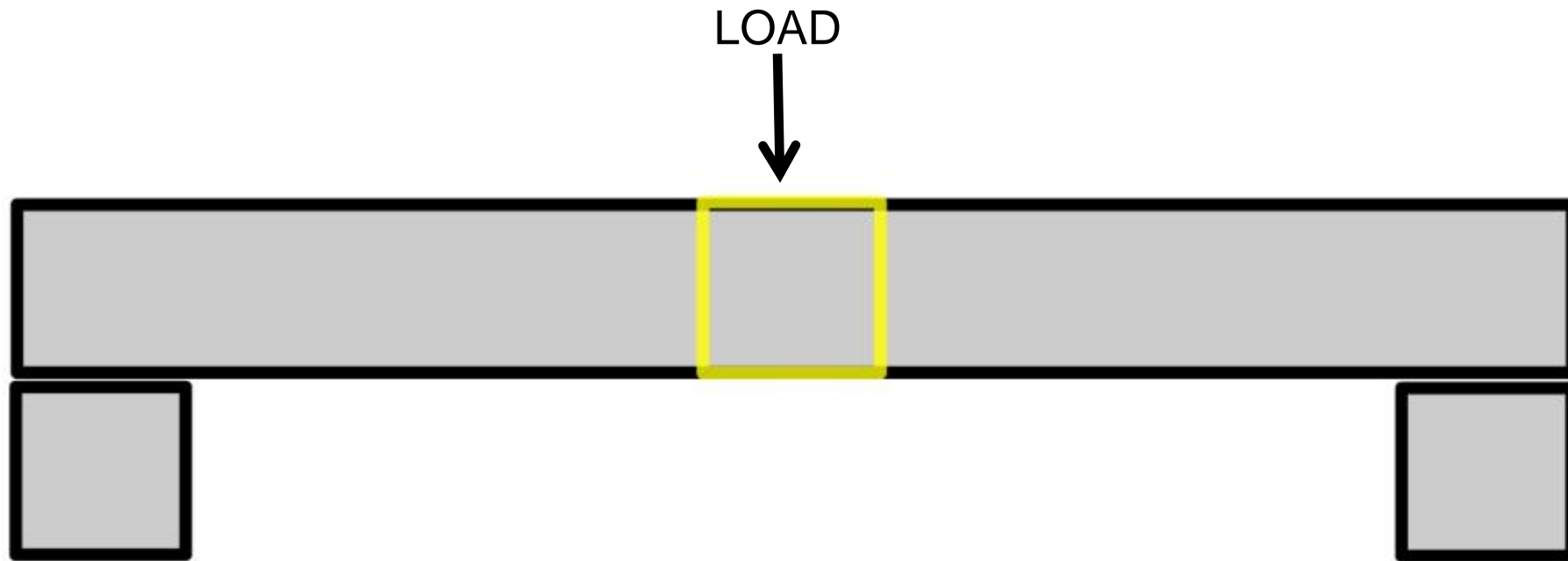
Double the Span = 4 Times the Force!  $2X = 4X$

Half the Span =  $\frac{1}{4}$  the Force!  $1/2X = 1/4X$

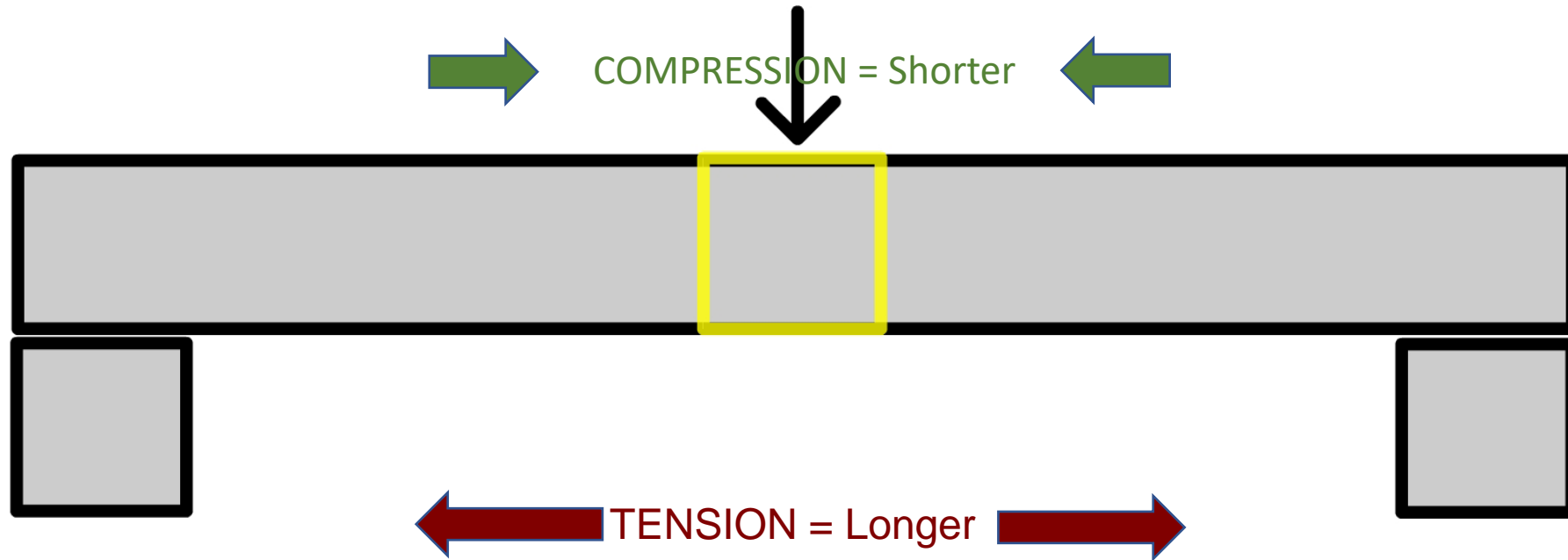
# Understanding **compression** & **tension**

 COMPRESSION = Shorter 

 TENSION = Longer 

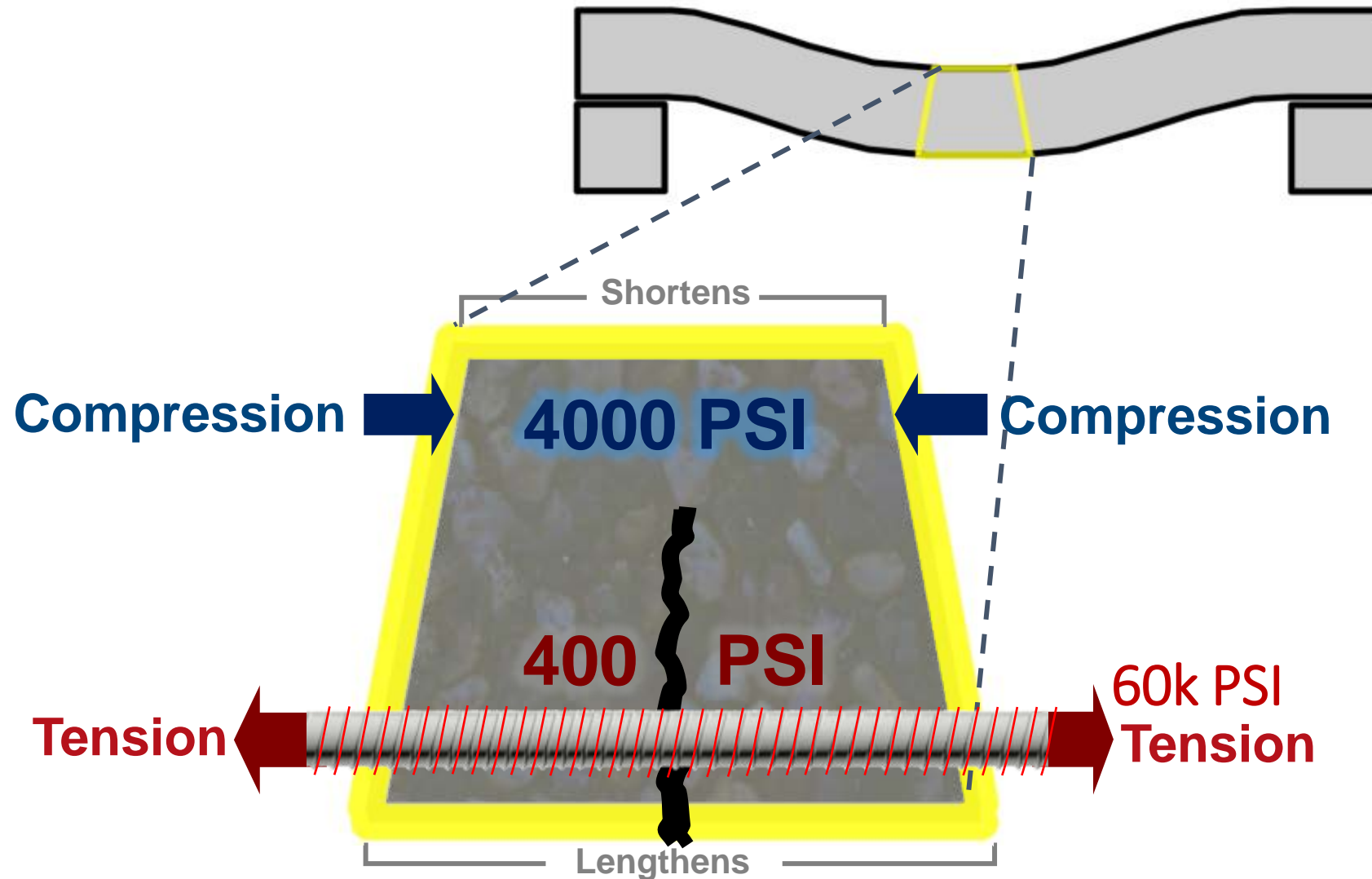


# Understanding **compression** & **tension**

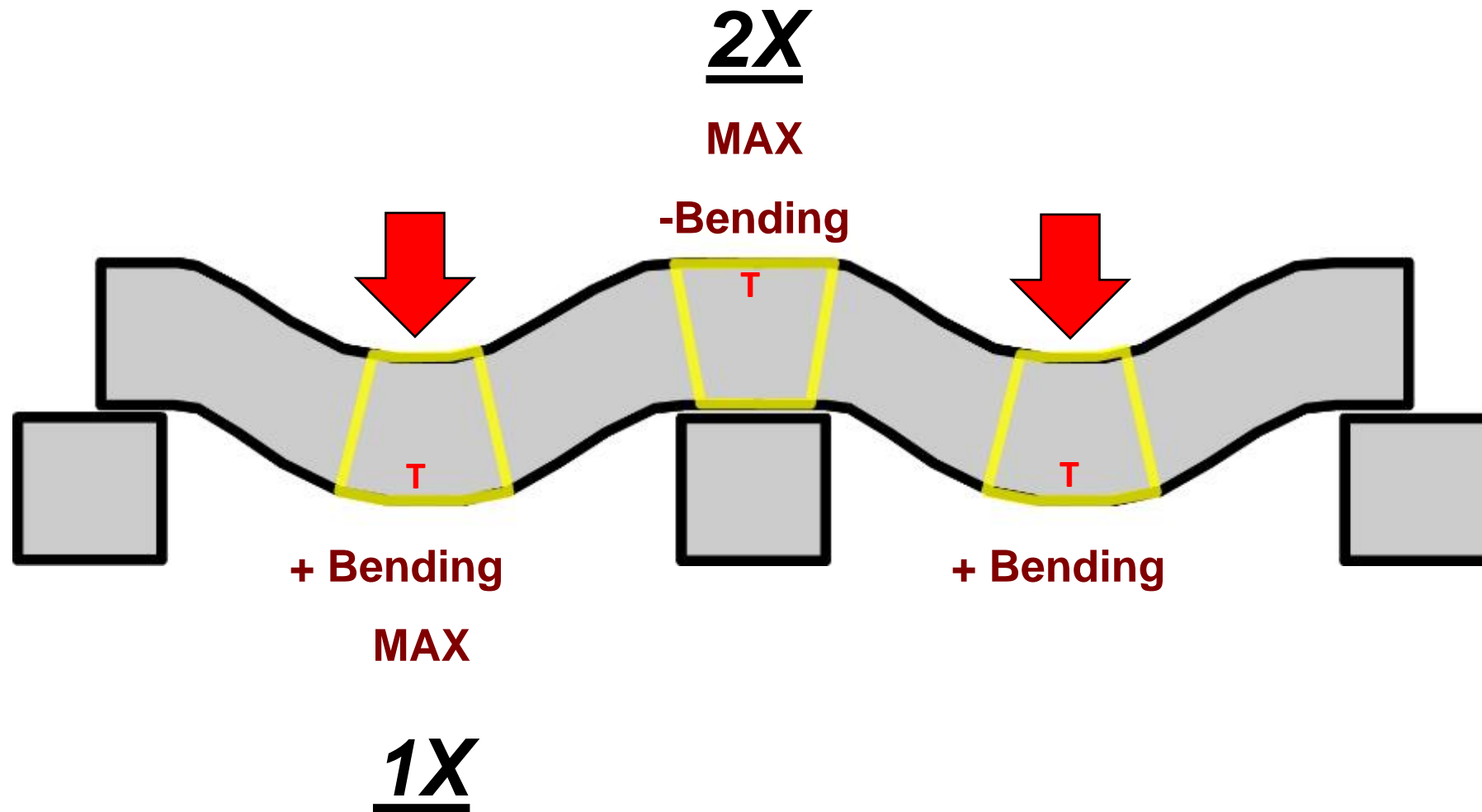




# Understanding **compression & tension**



# Understanding compression & tension forces on multiple spans



What are the most common defects?

How is reinforced/PT concrete designed- Eng. 101 for Contractors

Safe loading of structures during construction- OVERLOAD

## **Understanding typical steel placement**

What if that steel is set in the wrong place?

- Too high, low or close

Avoiding concrete placement errors- Honeycombs & Voids

Structural Safety issues to avoid when:

- Cutting, coring, chipping, drilling concrete

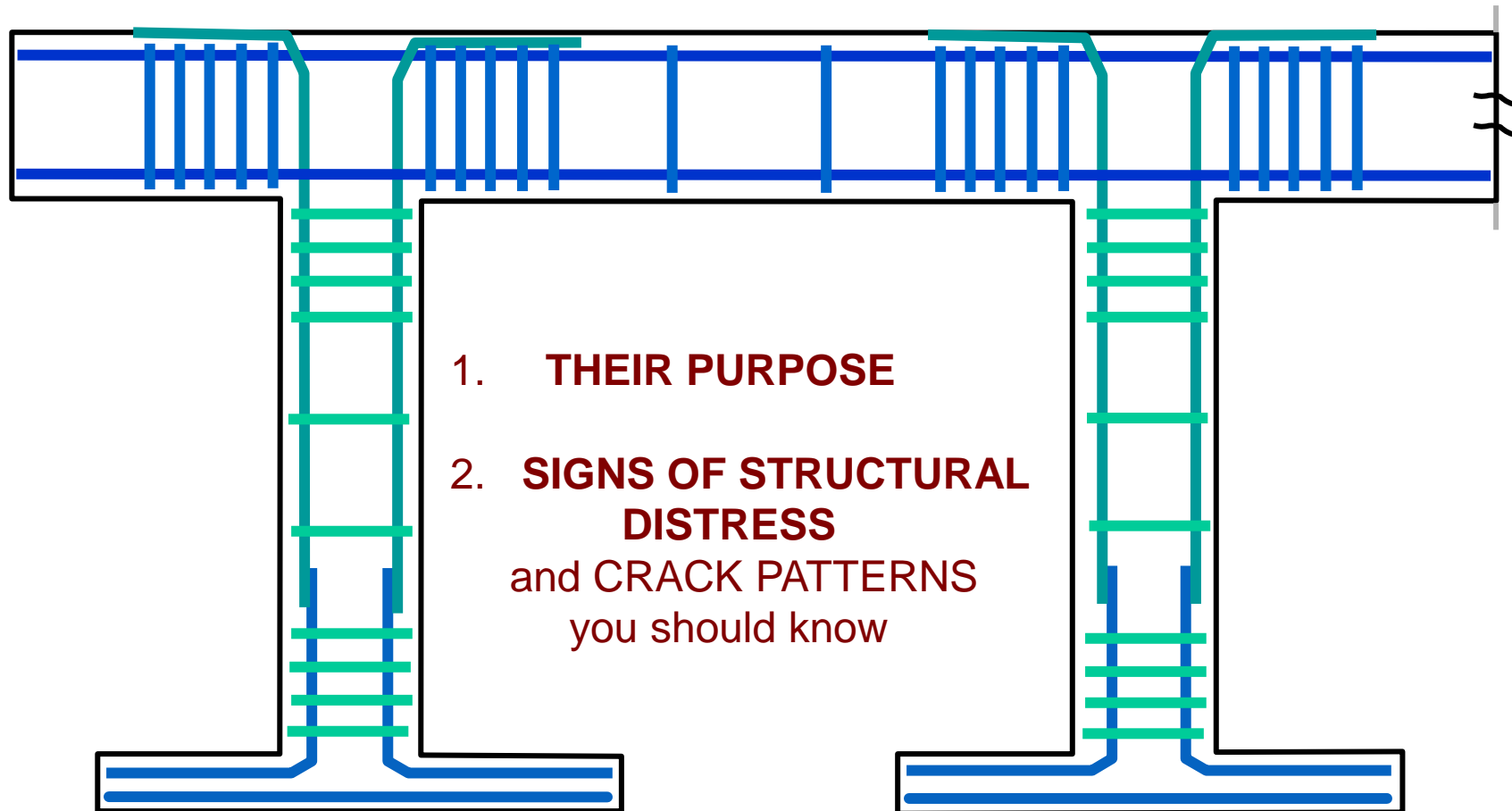
Avoiding Shoring/Re-shoring & early loading of slab errors

Repair strategies if Structural Safety or defects occur

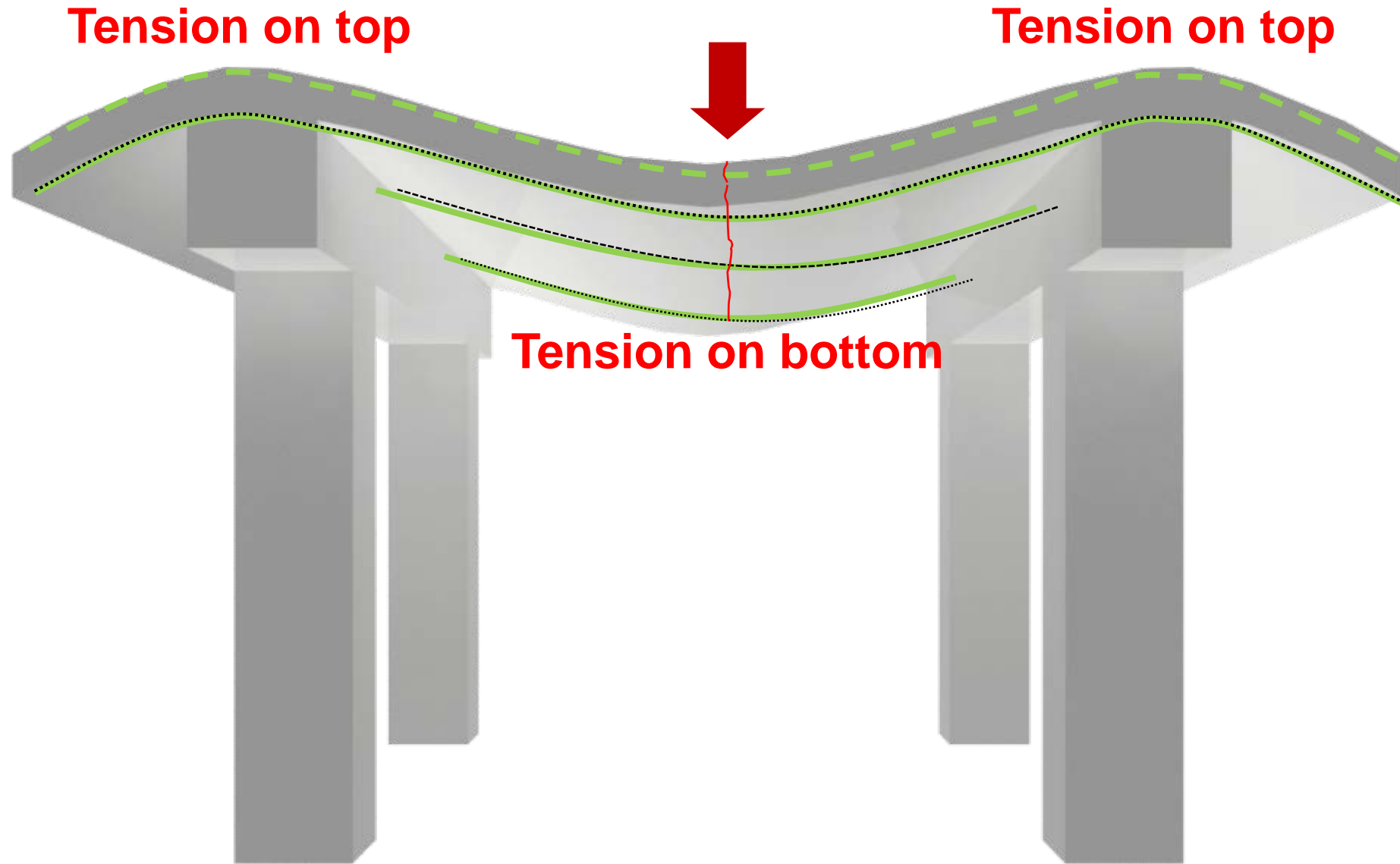
Incorporating Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process

# Understanding Typical Steel Placement

## Reinforcement in Beams, Slabs, Columns, and Shear Walls

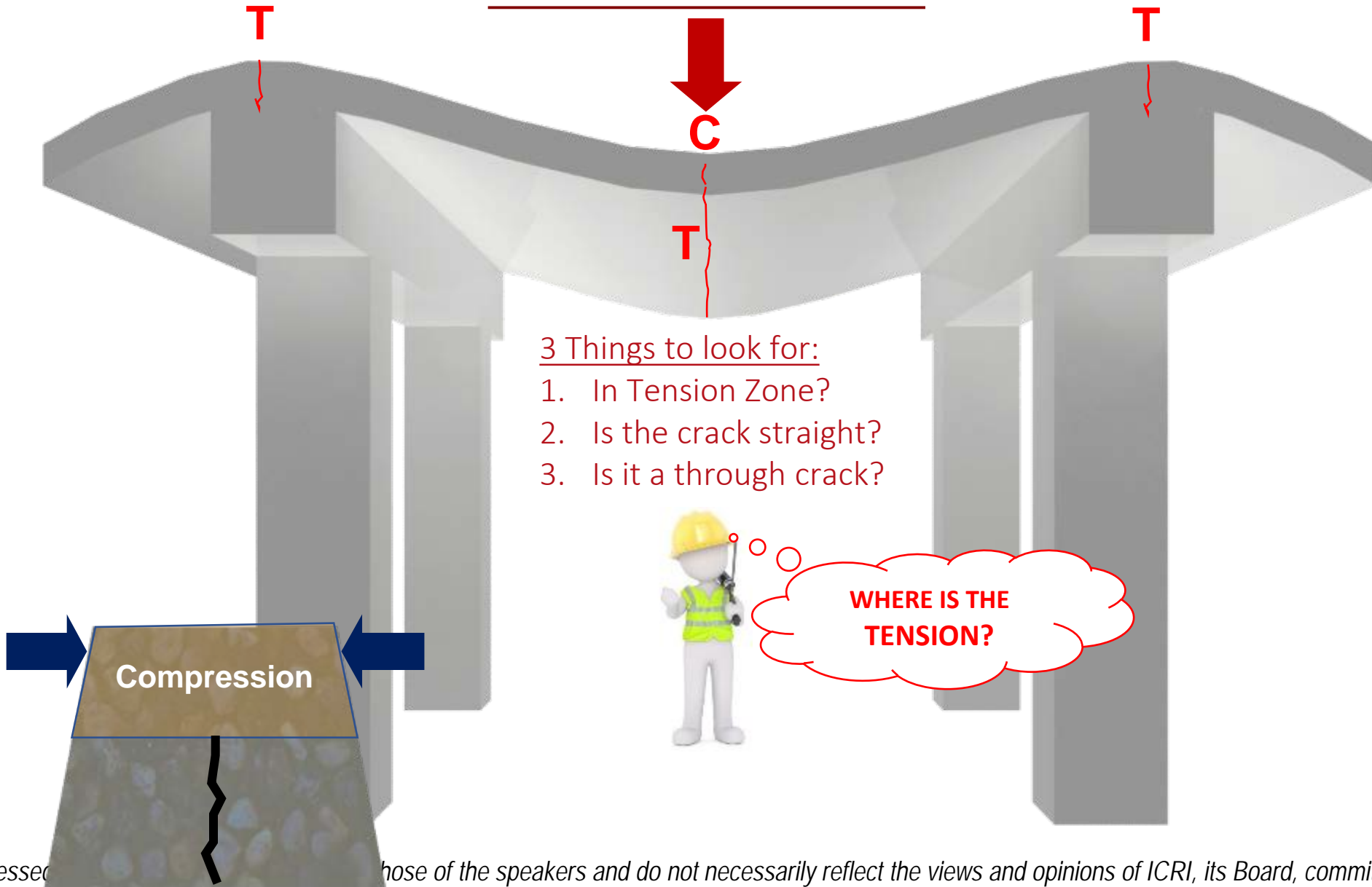


# Steel placement in “1 Way” Slab to resist + & - bending forces





# Identifying Signs of Structural Distress: What do STRUCTURAL CRACKS look like?

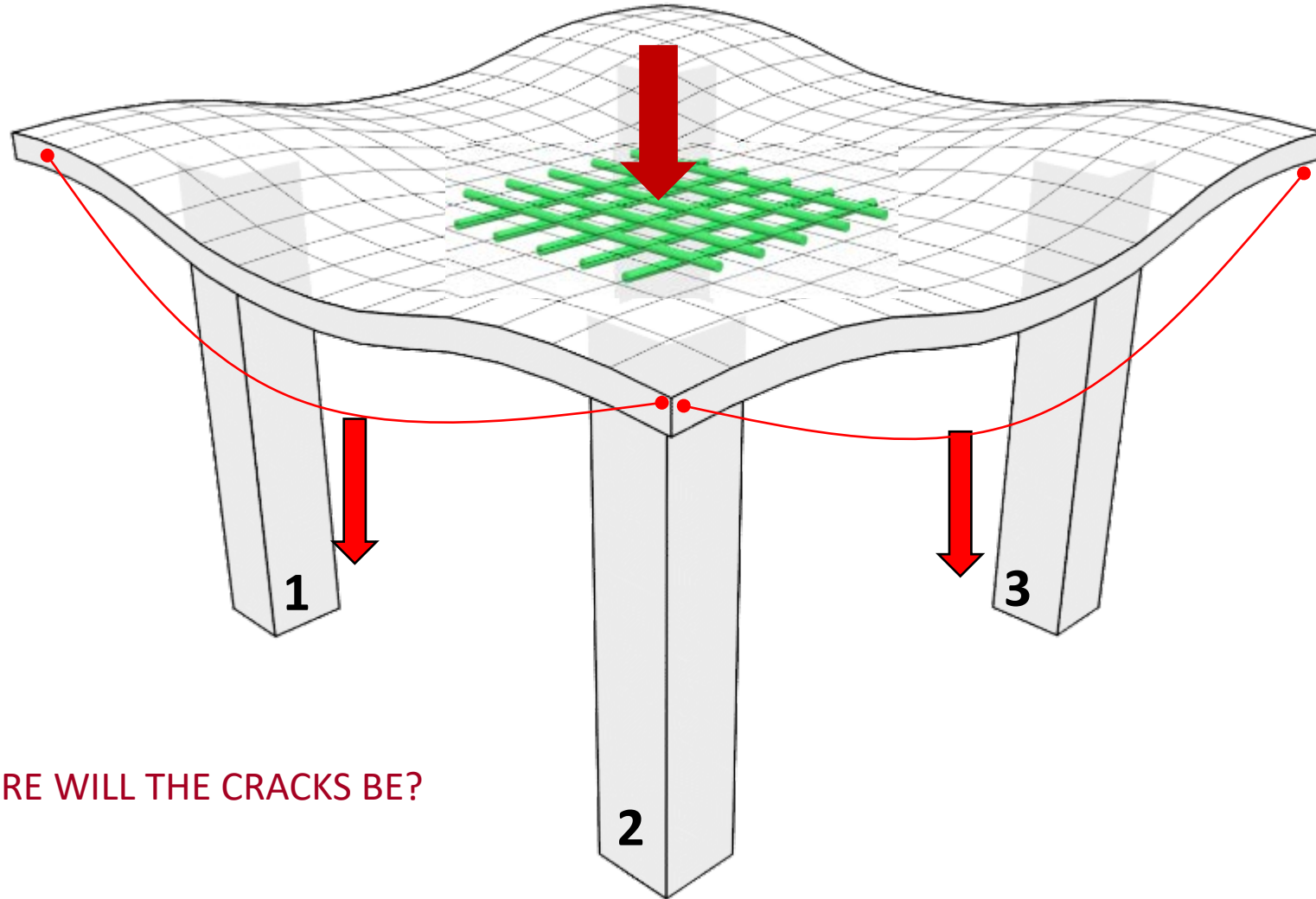


## 3 Things to look for:

1. In Tension Zone?
2. Is the crack straight?
3. Is it a through crack?

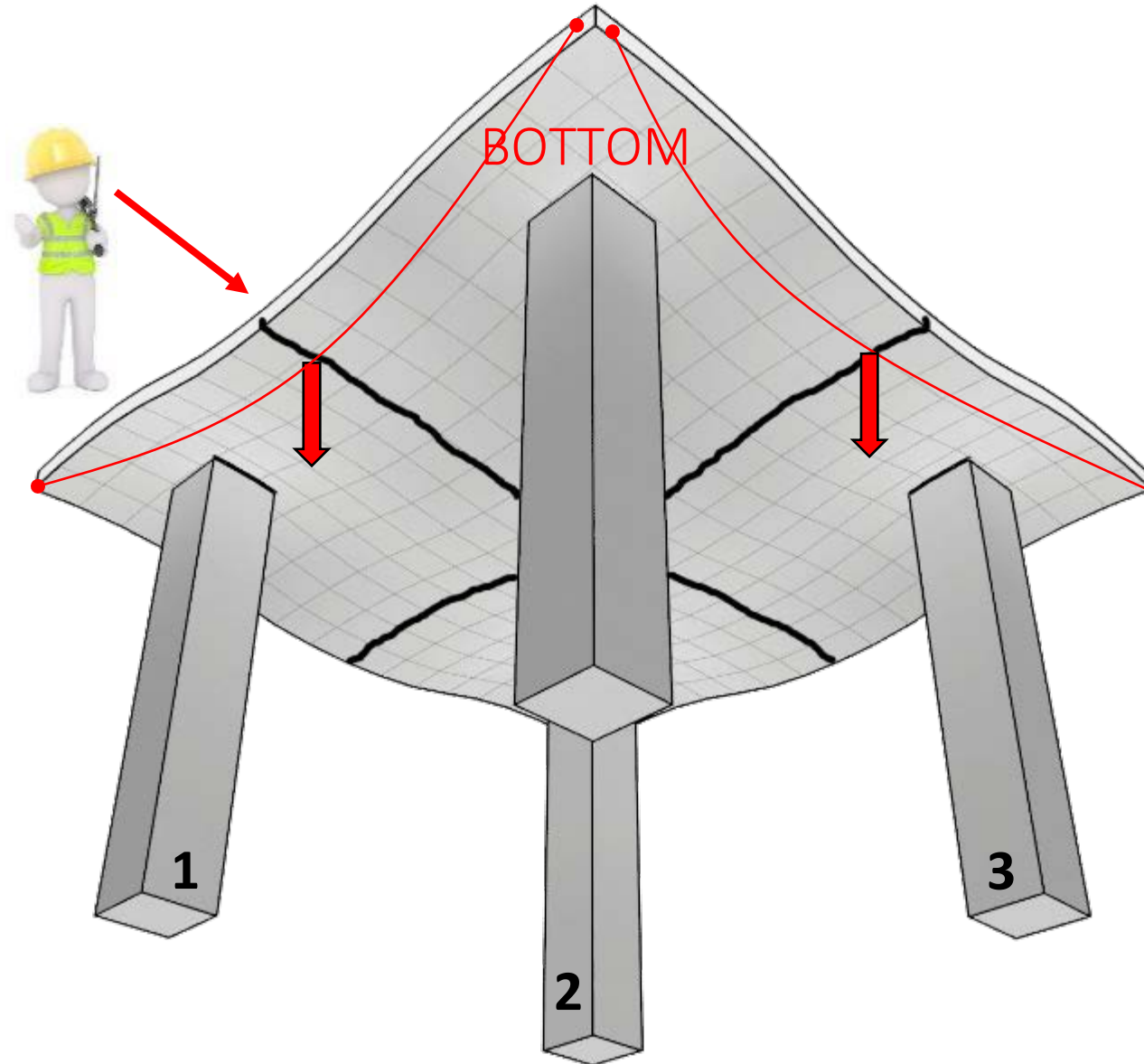
**WHERE IS THE  
TENSION?**

# Steel placement in “2 Way” Slab to resist + bending forces

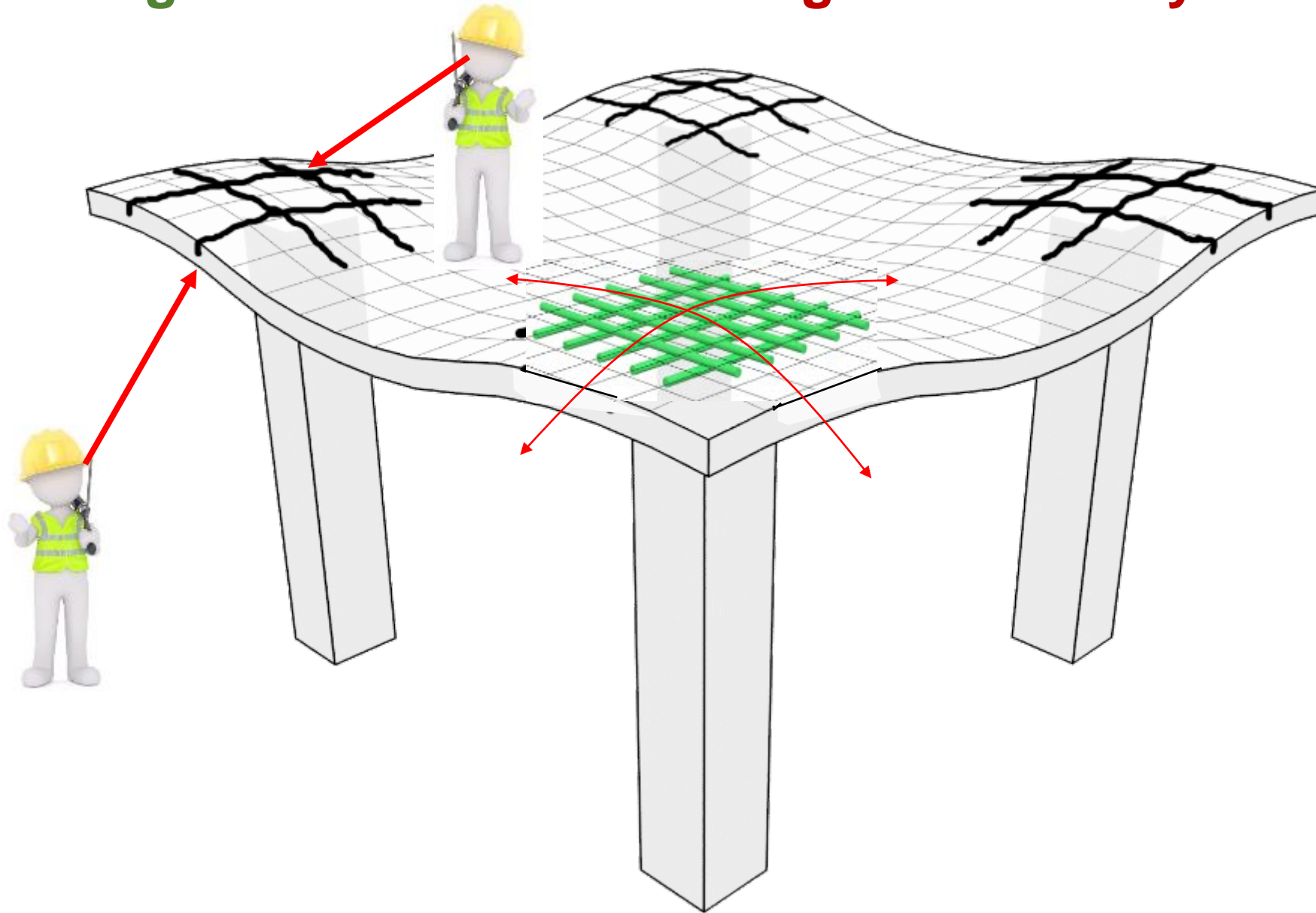


WHERE WILL THE CRACKS BE?

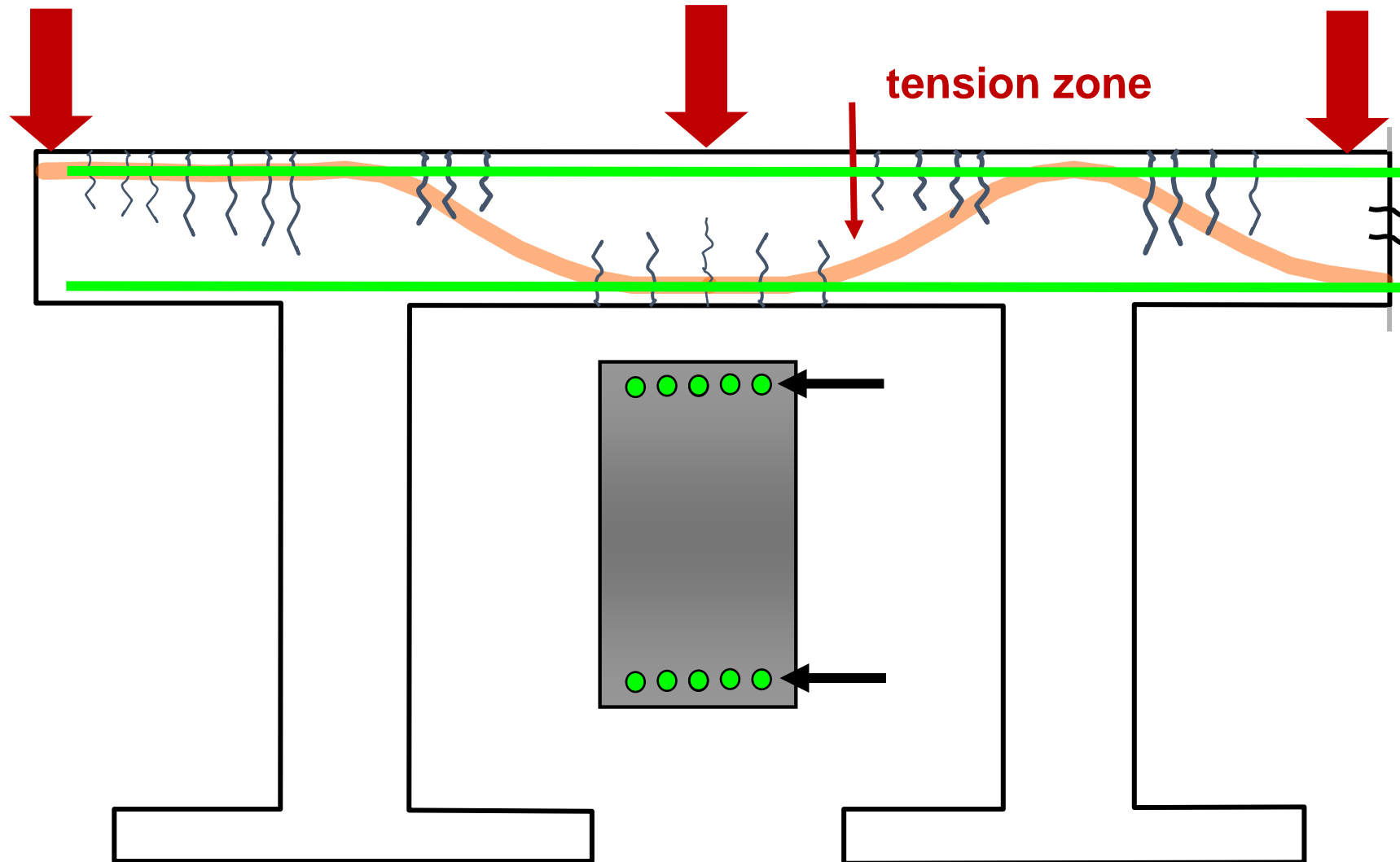
# Signs of distress: + bending cracks 2 way slab **BOTTOM**



# Signs of distress: - bending cracks 2 way slab-TOP



# Steel placement in Beam to resist bending forces



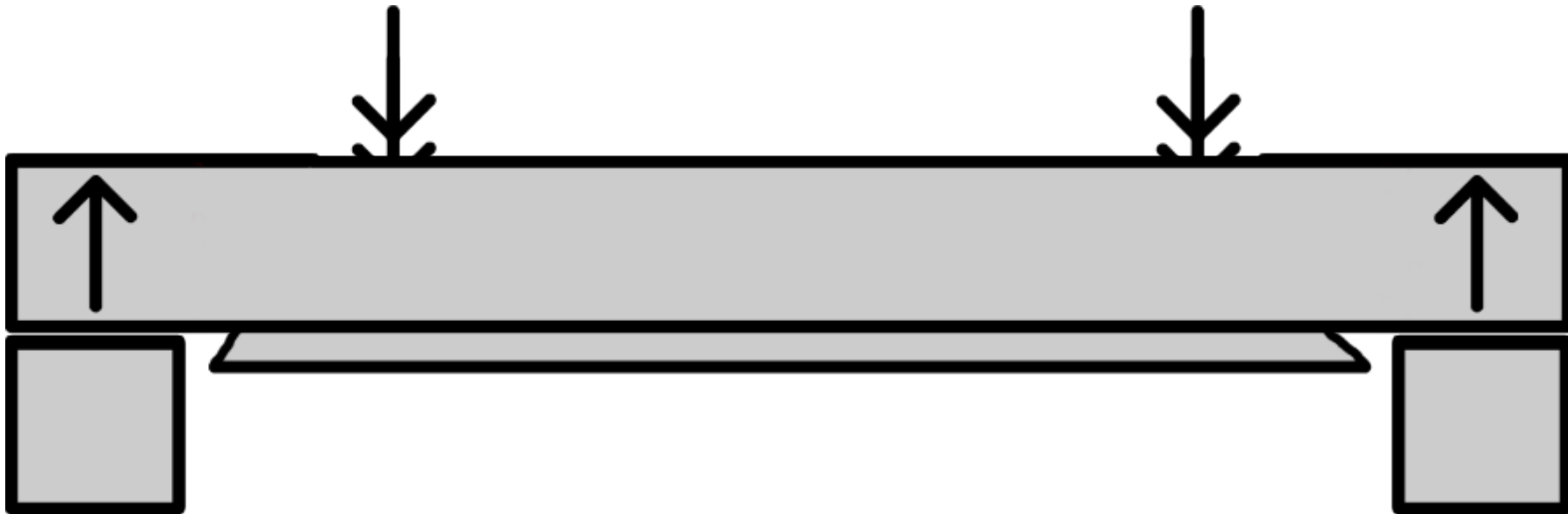


Signs of distress: beam + bending cracks

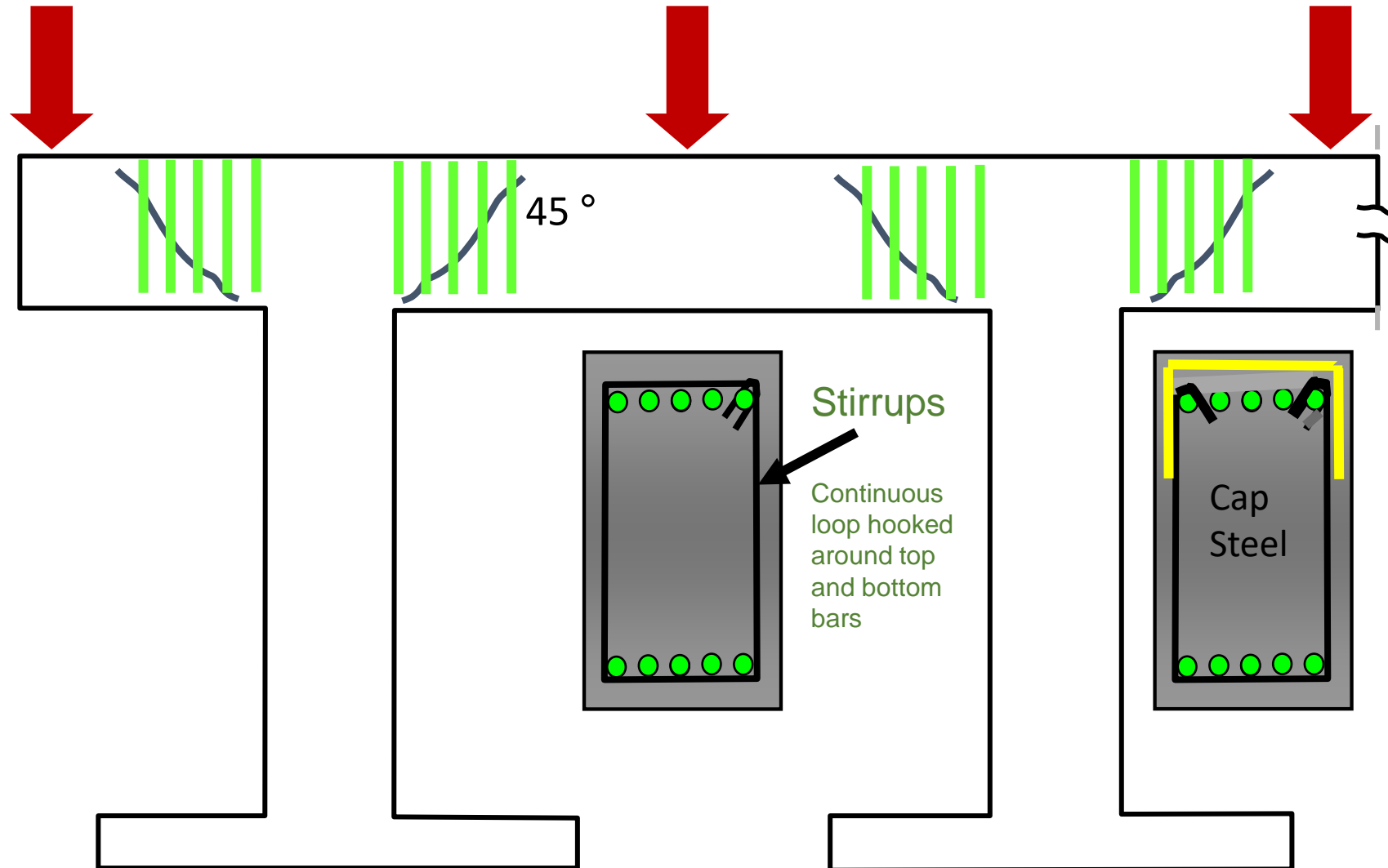


# Understanding 2 types of shear forces

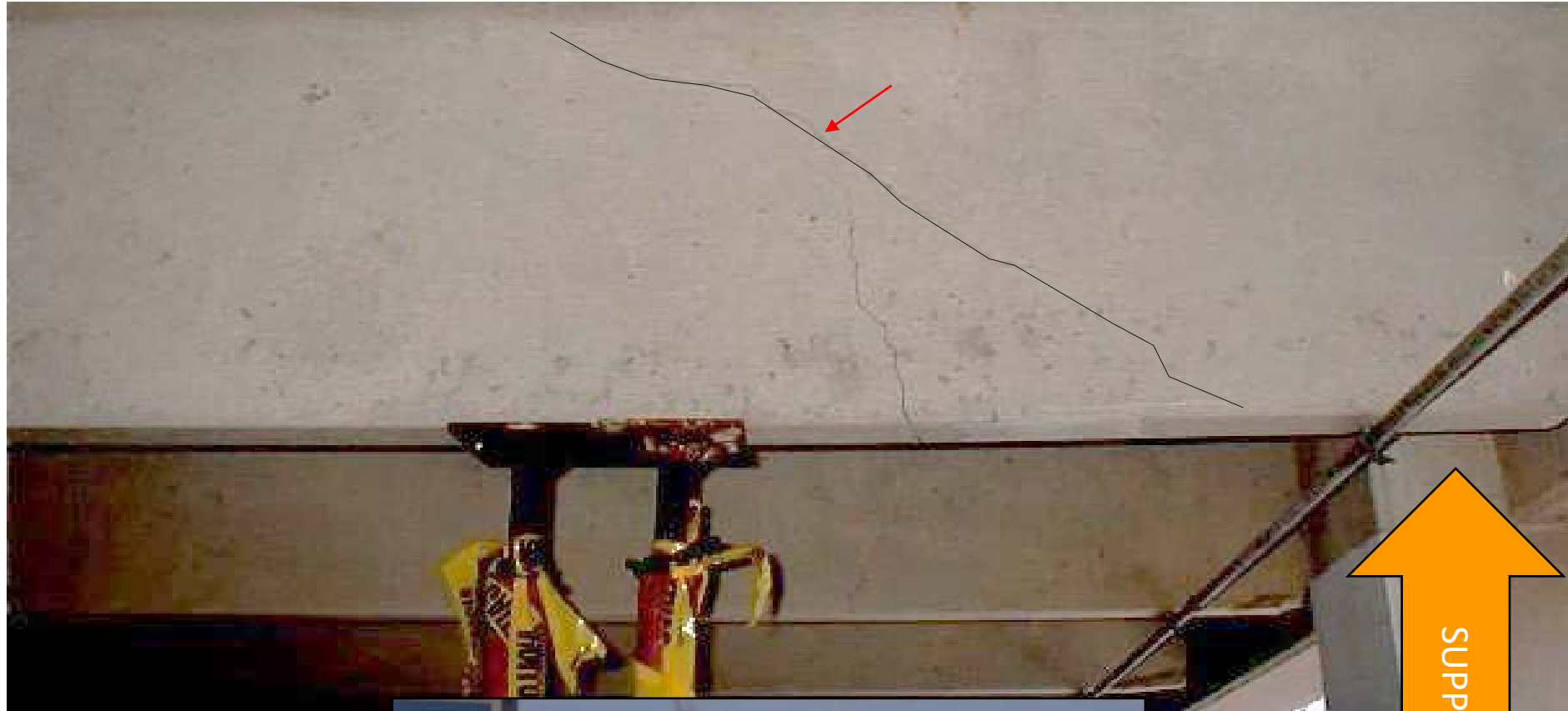
## 1. Beam shear



# Steel placement in Beam to resist shear forces

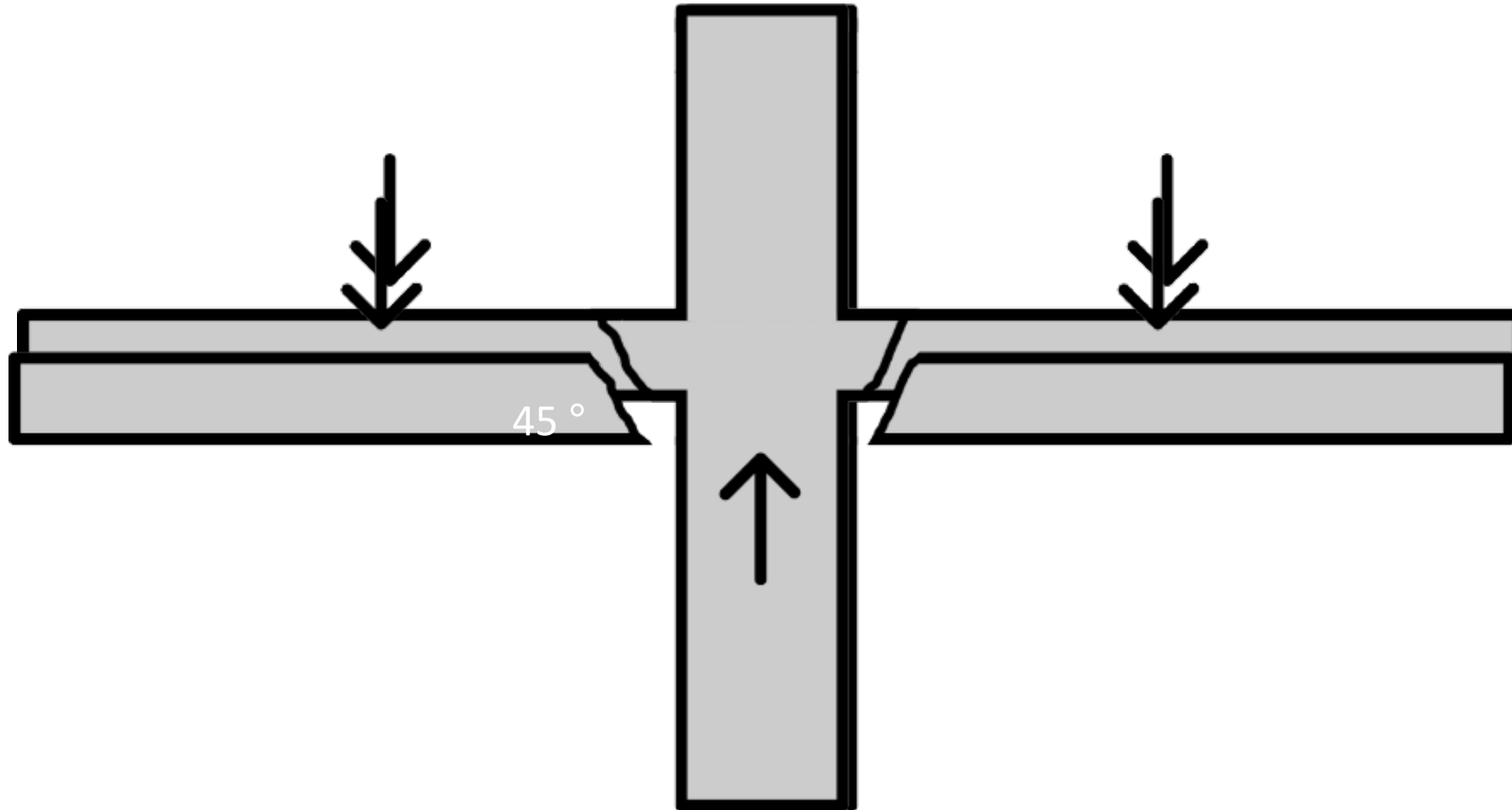


# Signs of distress: beam shear cracking



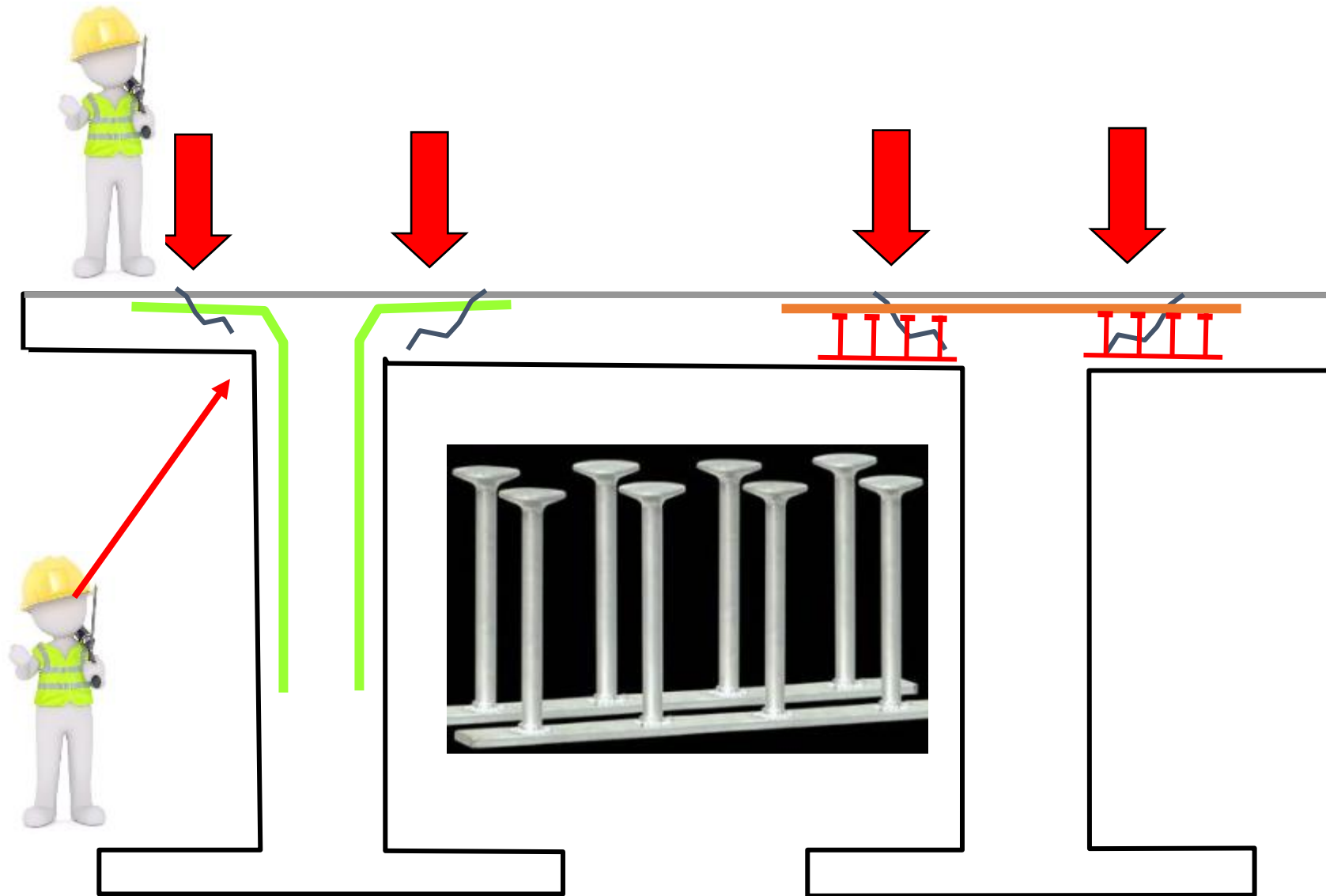
# Understanding shear forces

## 2. Slab Punching shear

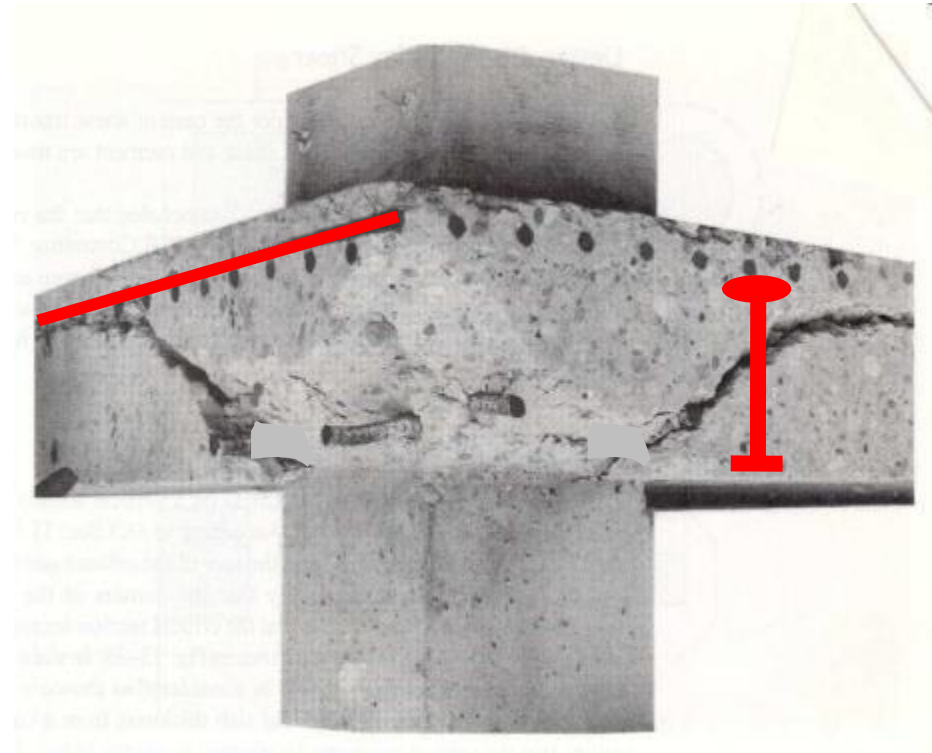




# Slab steel placement to resist punching shear



# Signs of distress: slab punching shear cracking



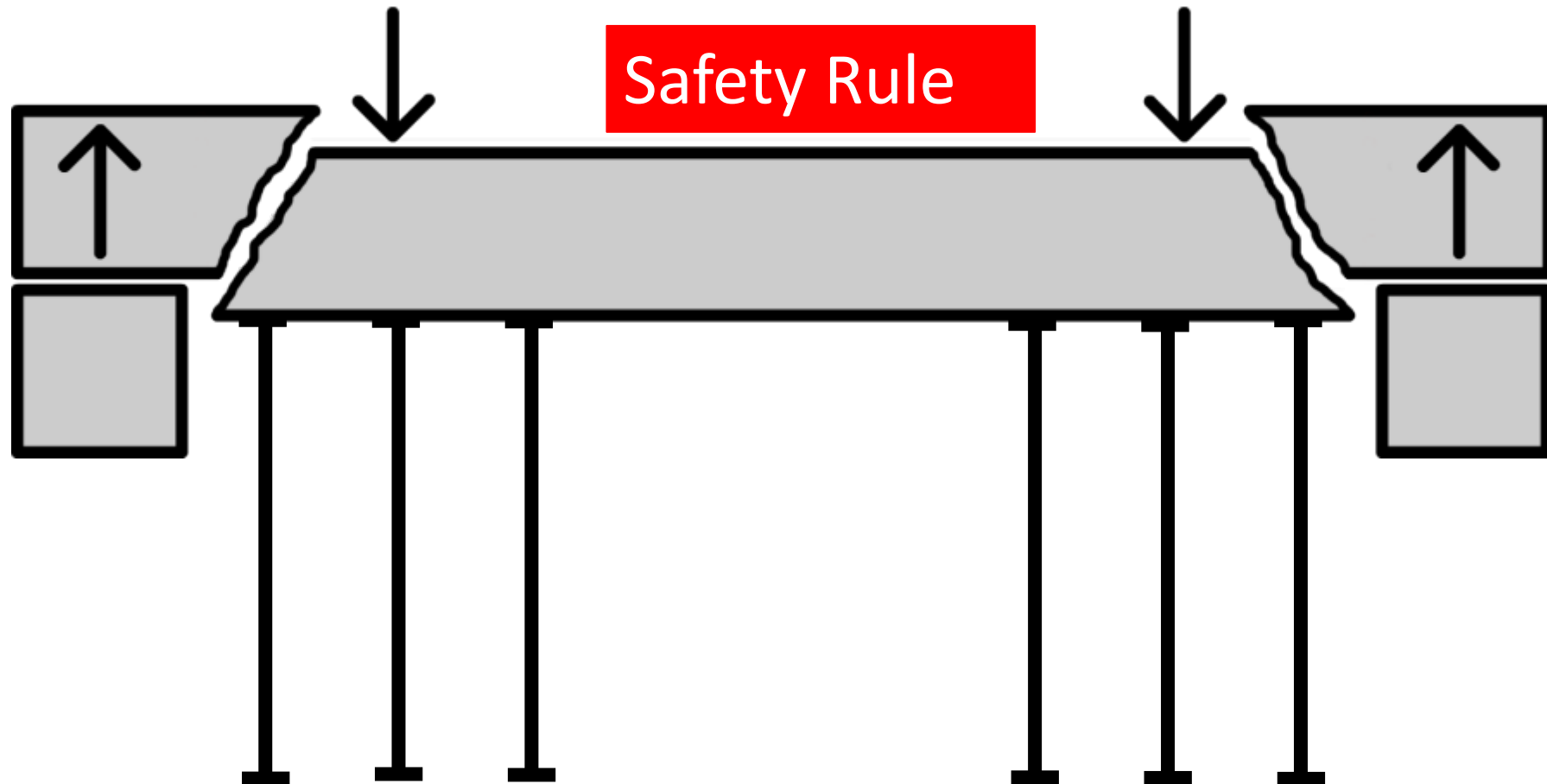
# HIGH LEVEL OF CAUTION FOR SHEAR CRACKS!

BEAM AND SLAB SHEAR FAILURE IS ABRUPT

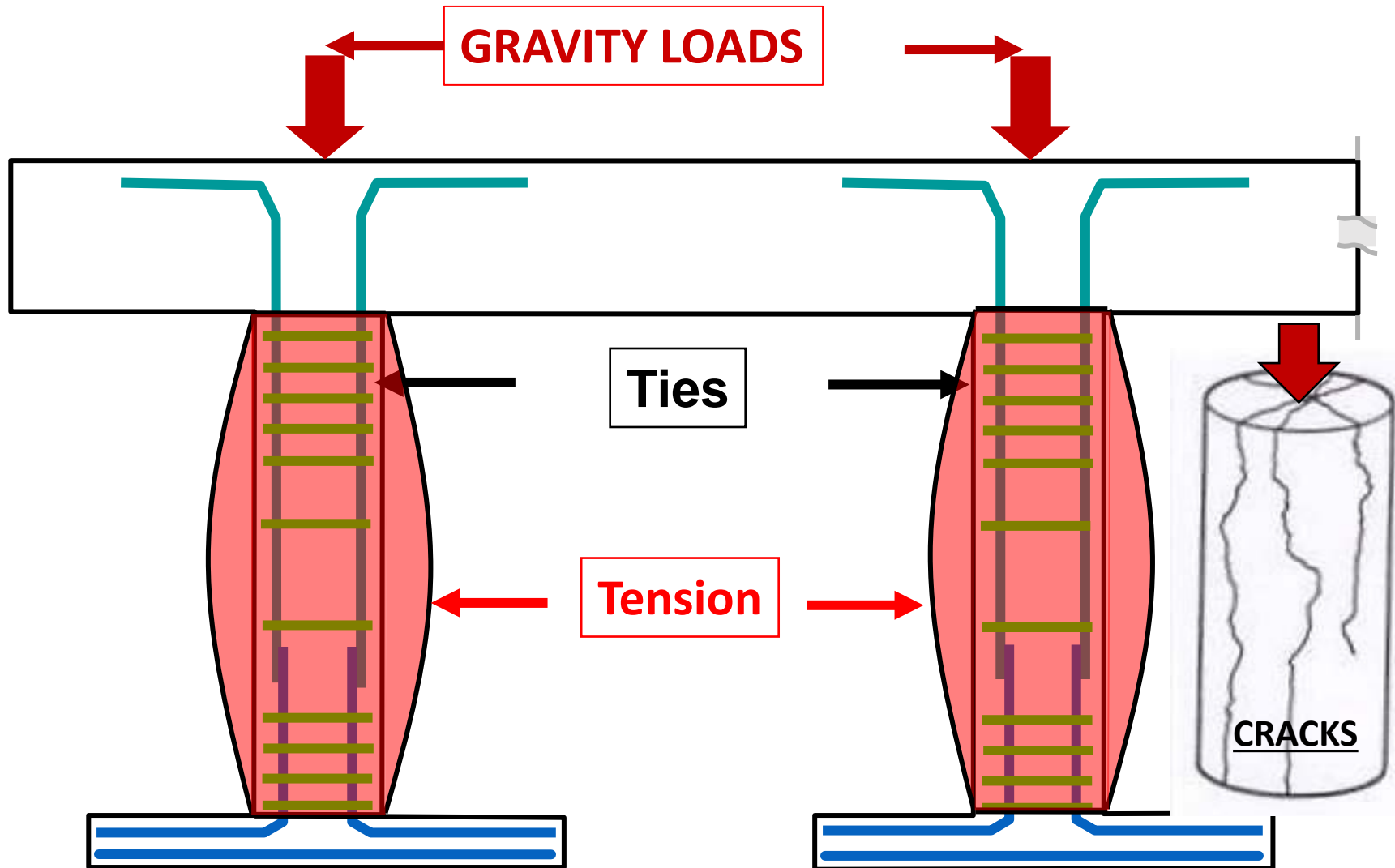
NO WARNING

ALERT ENGINEER

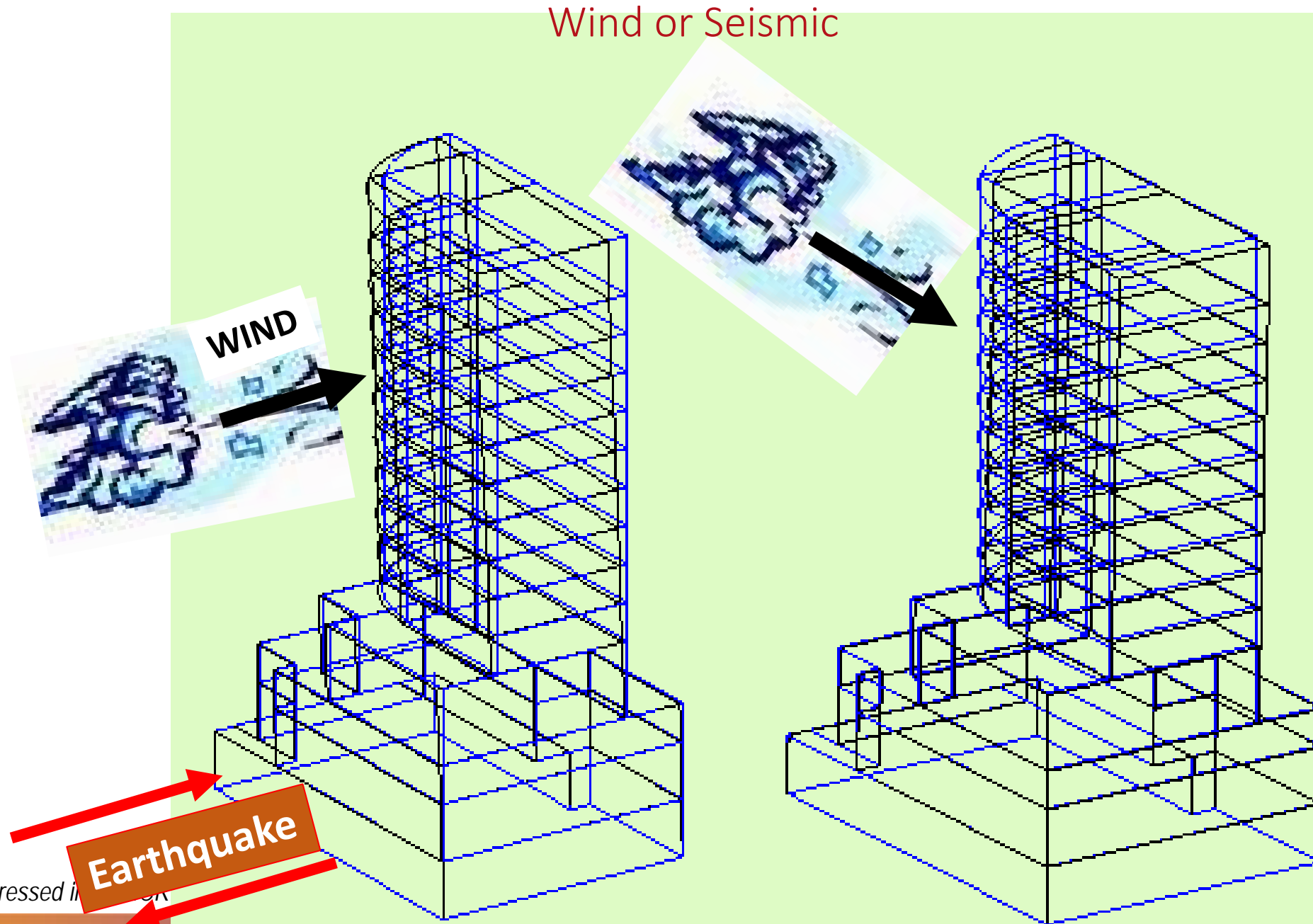
SHORE?



# Column steel placement to resist vertical forces

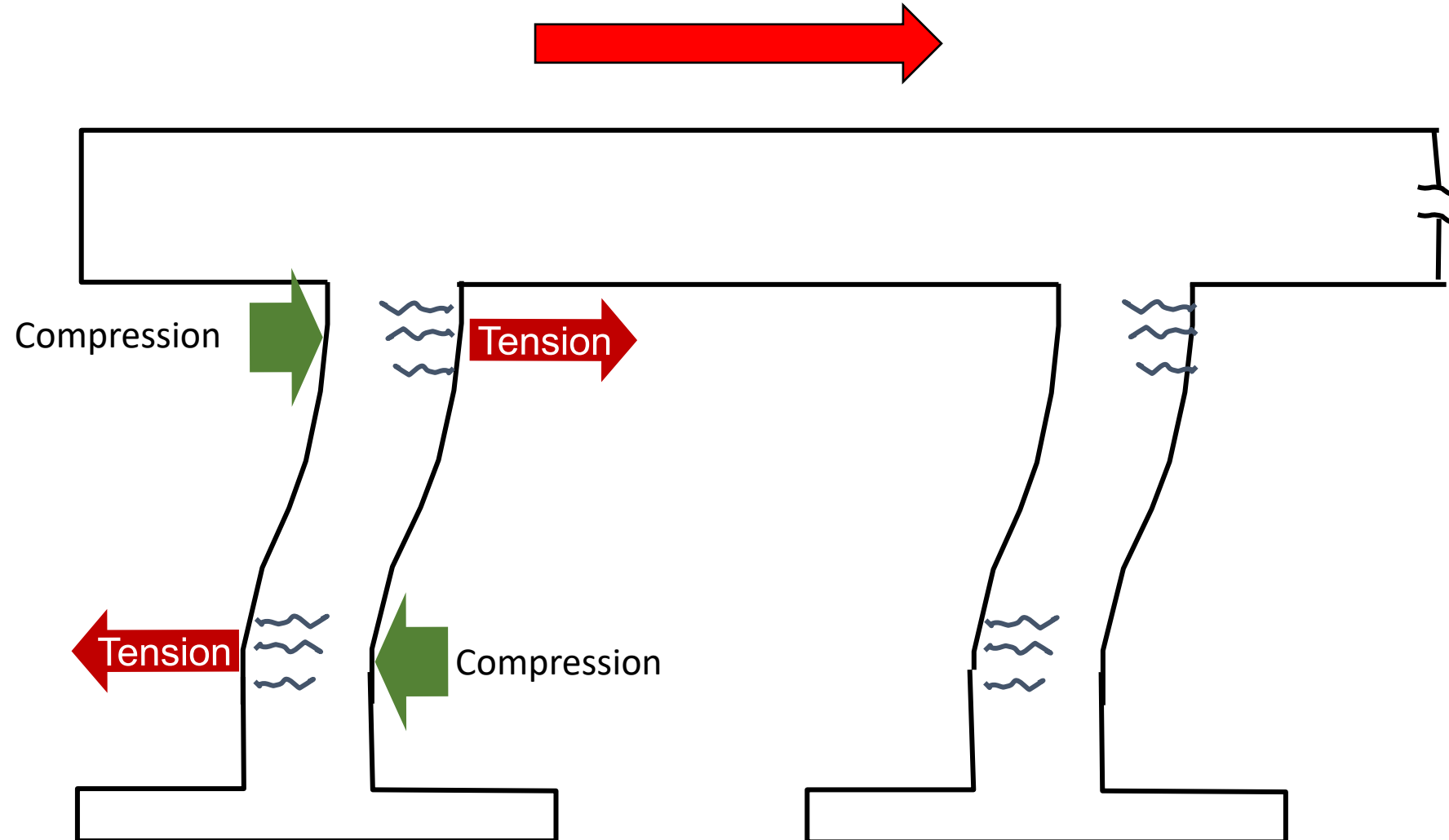


# Column steel placement to resist lateral forces



# Column steel placement to resist lateral forces

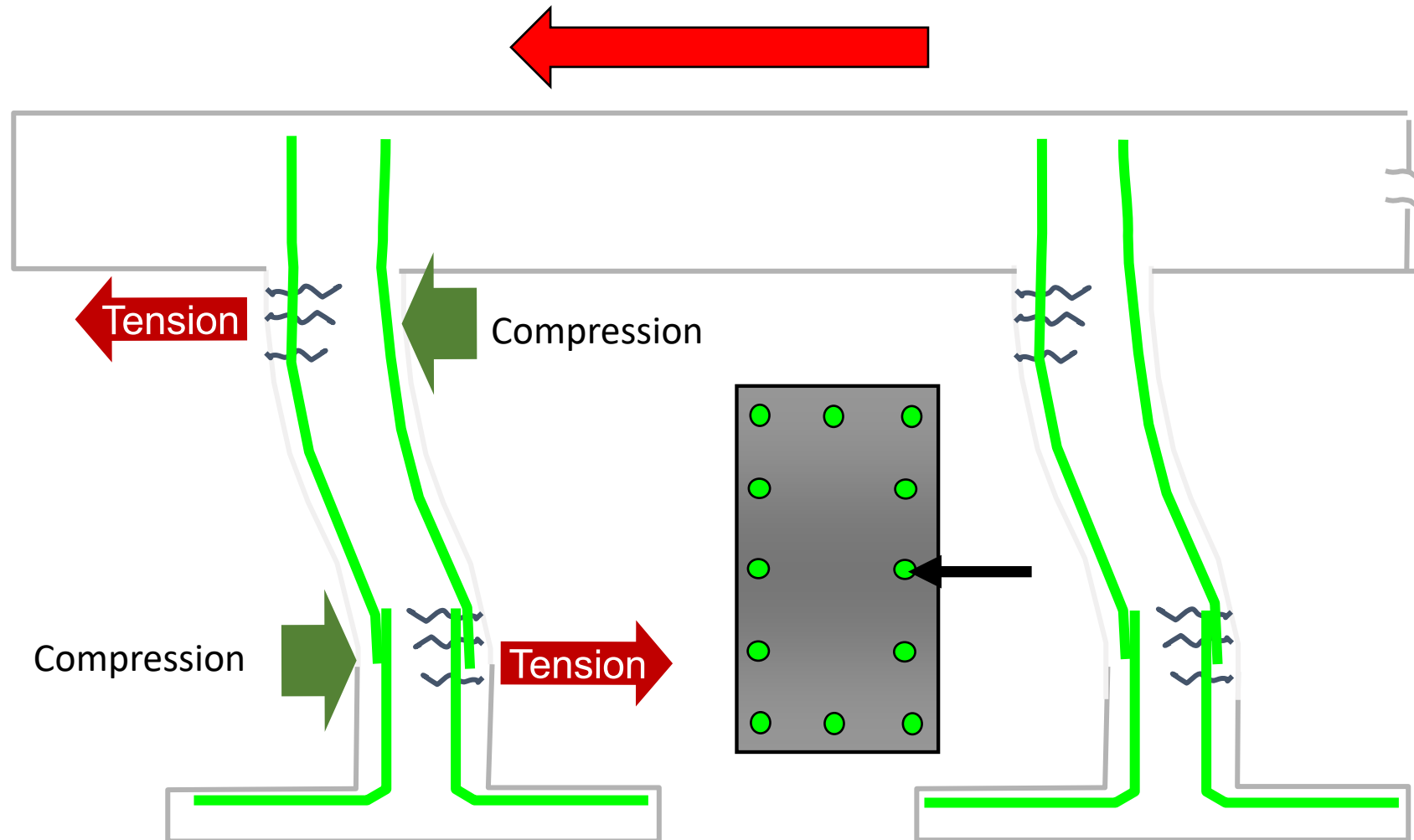
Wind or Earthquake





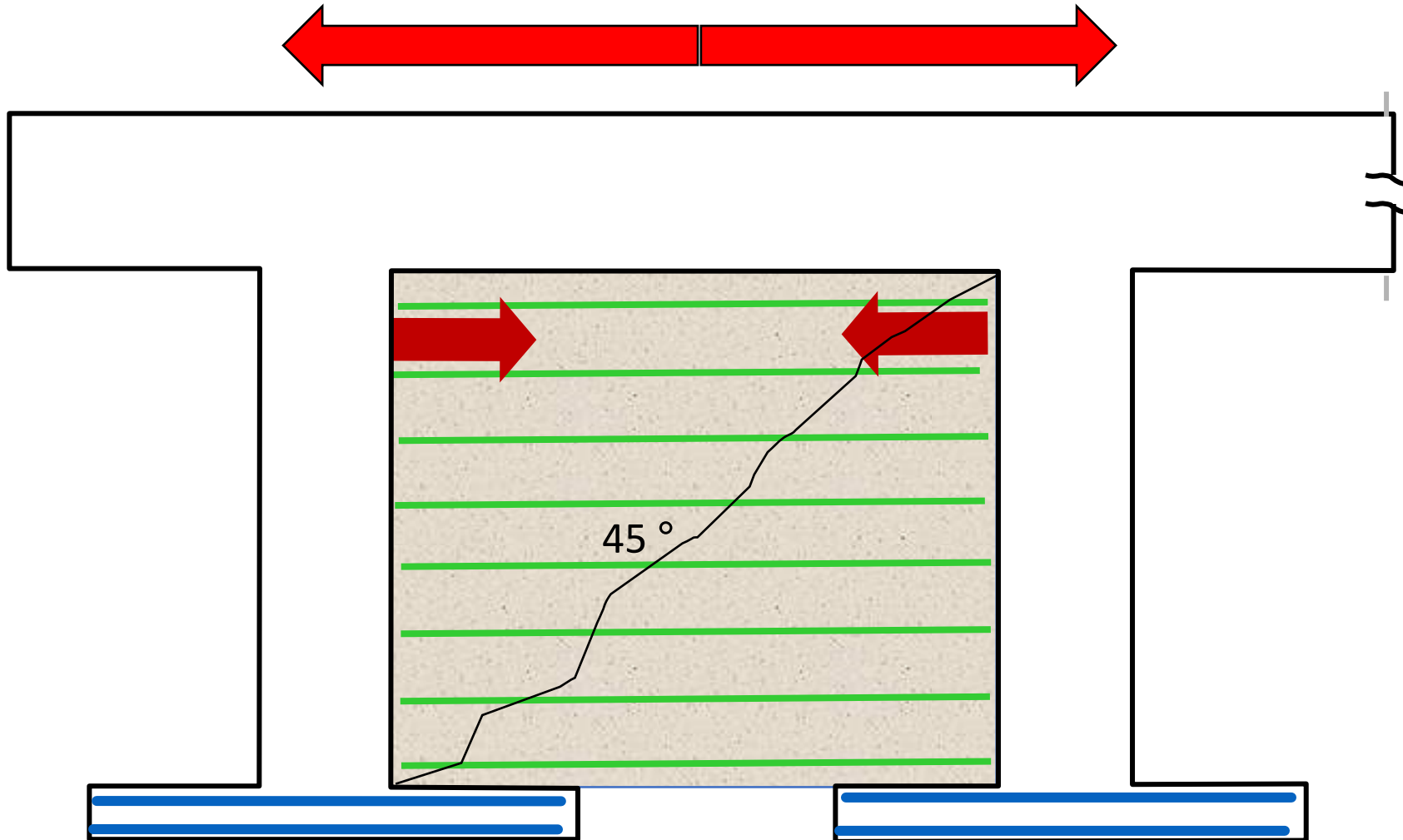
# Column steel placement to resist lateral forces

Wind or Earthquake



# Shear walls to resist lateral forces

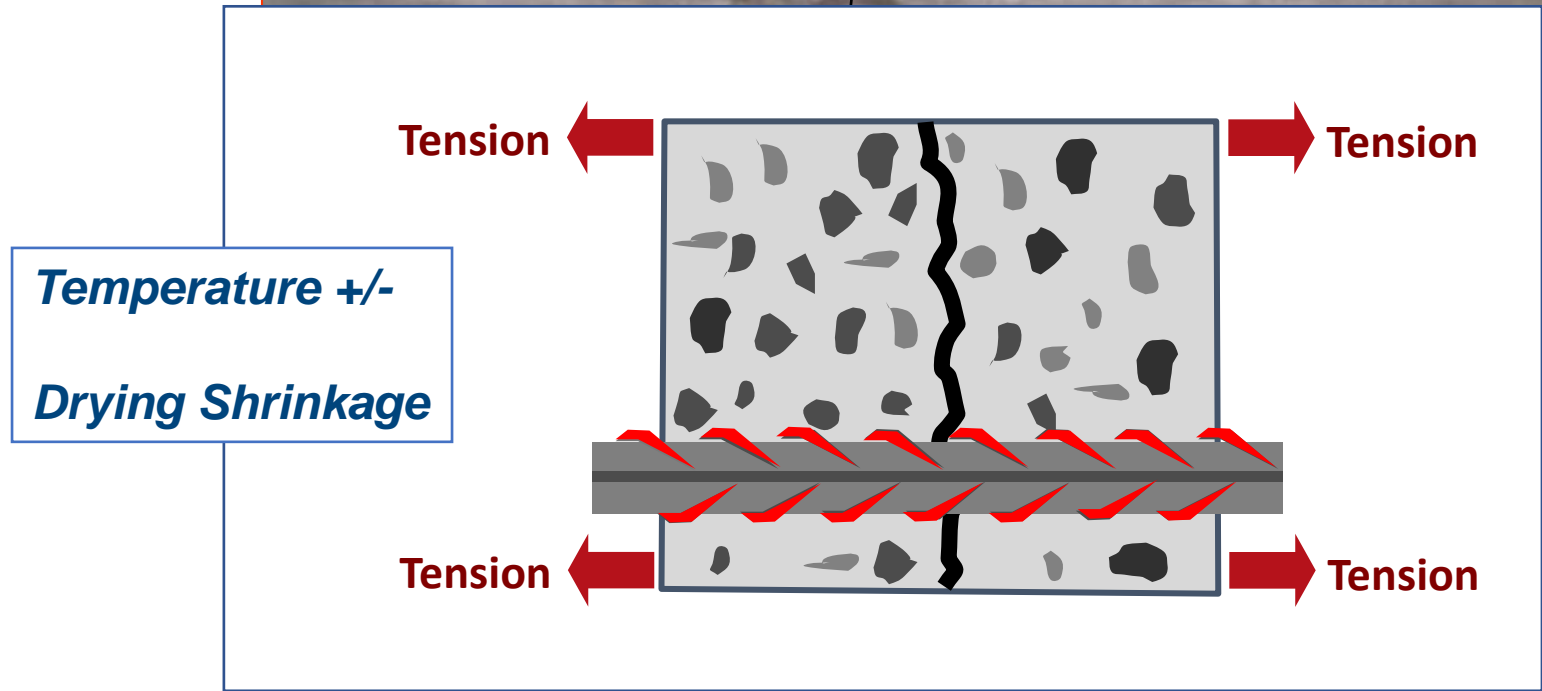
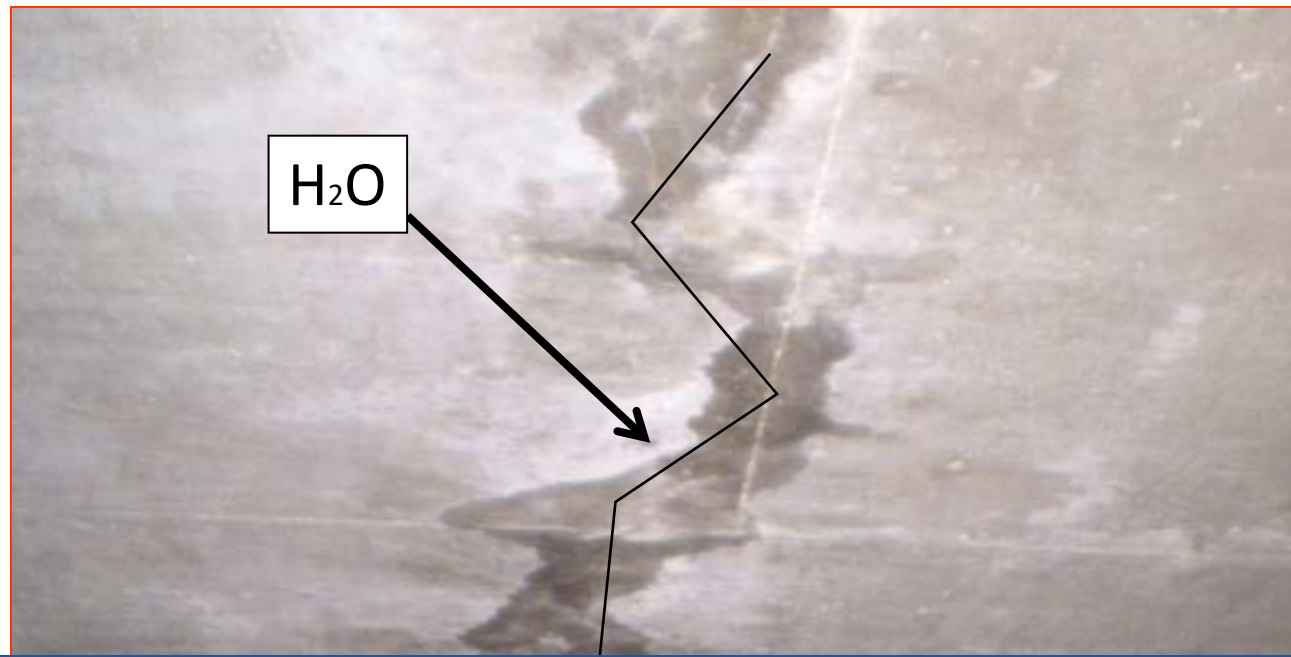
## Shear Walls



# Is this a Structural crack? (TOP LEVEL OF PARKING GARAGE)

## 3 Things to think about

1. In Tension Zone?
2. Is the crack straight?
3. Is it a through crack?



What are the most common defects?

How is reinforced/PT concrete designed- Eng. 101 for Contractors

Safe loading of structures during construction- OVERLOAD

Understanding typical steel placement

**What if that steel is set in the wrong place?**

- Too high, too low or too close

Avoiding concrete placement errors- Honeycombs & Voids

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Avoiding Shoring/Re-shoring & early loading of slab errors

Repair strategies if Structural Safety or defects occur

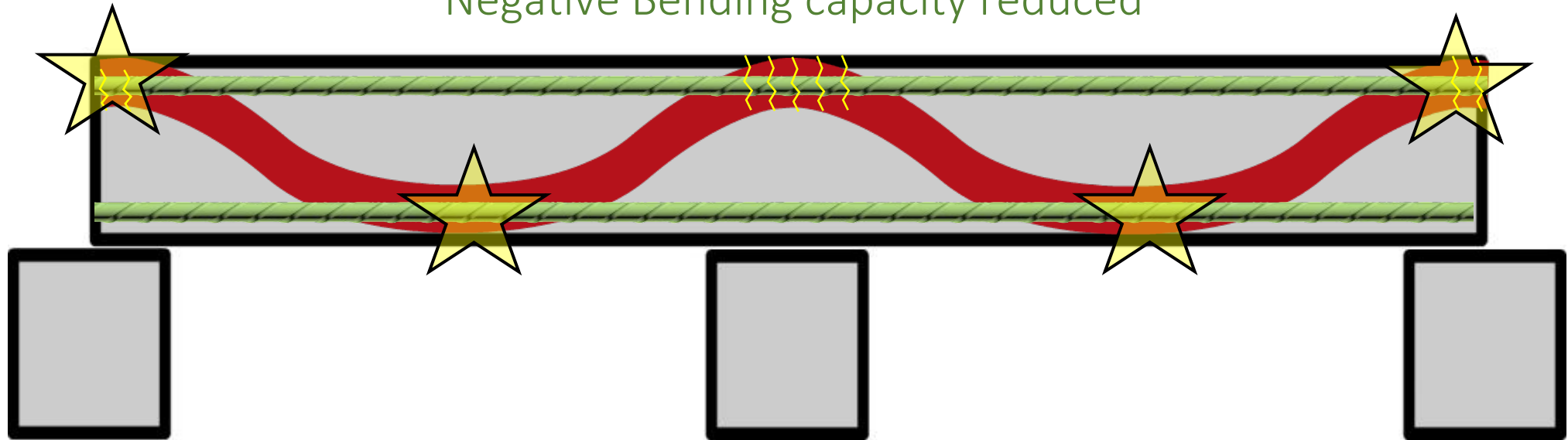
Incorporating Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process

# What if the steel is set in the too LOW?

## Safety Rule

### Effect #1

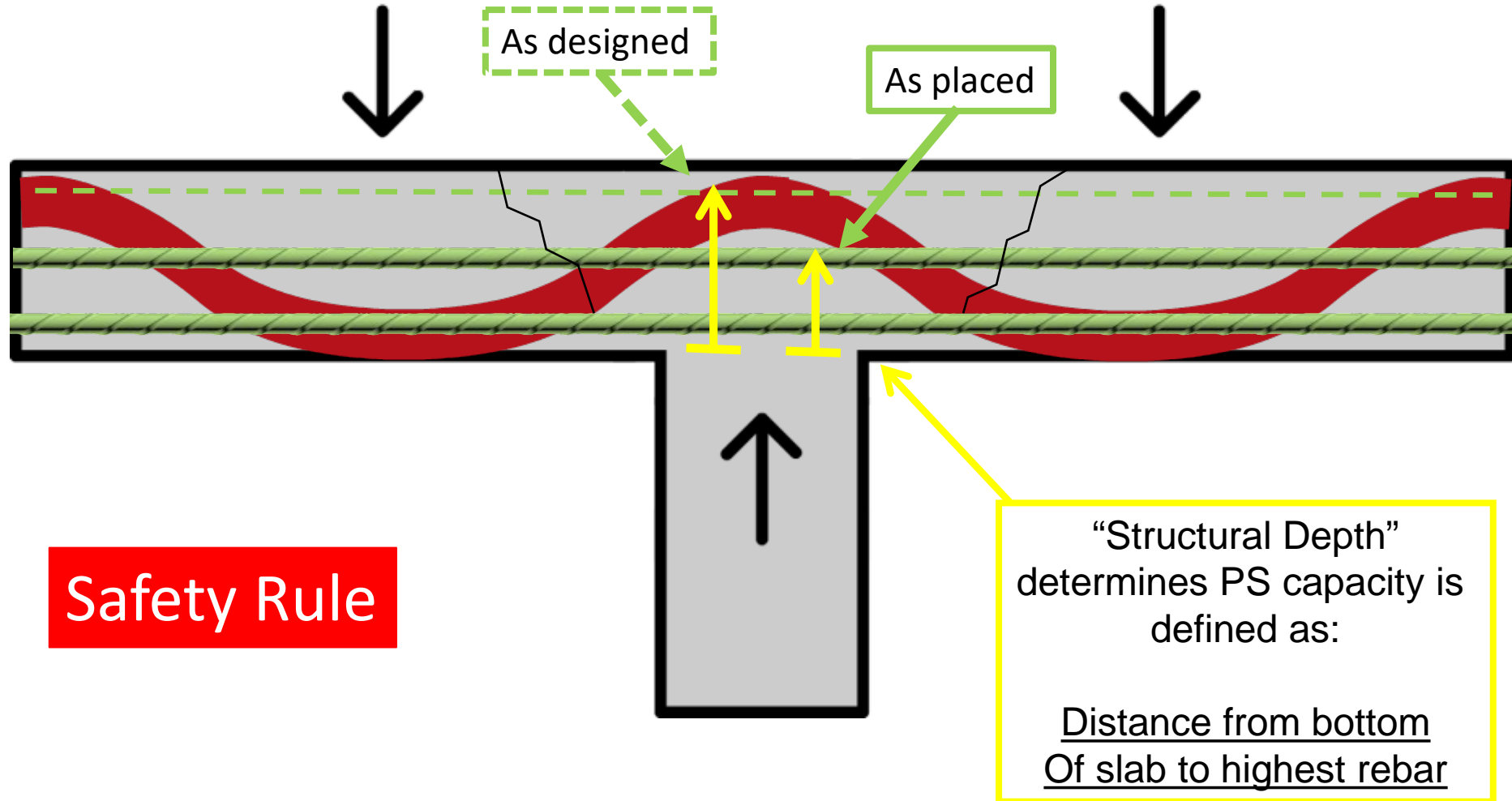
Negative Bending capacity reduced



# What if the steel is set in the **too LOW**?

Effect #2

Slab Punching Shear Reduced





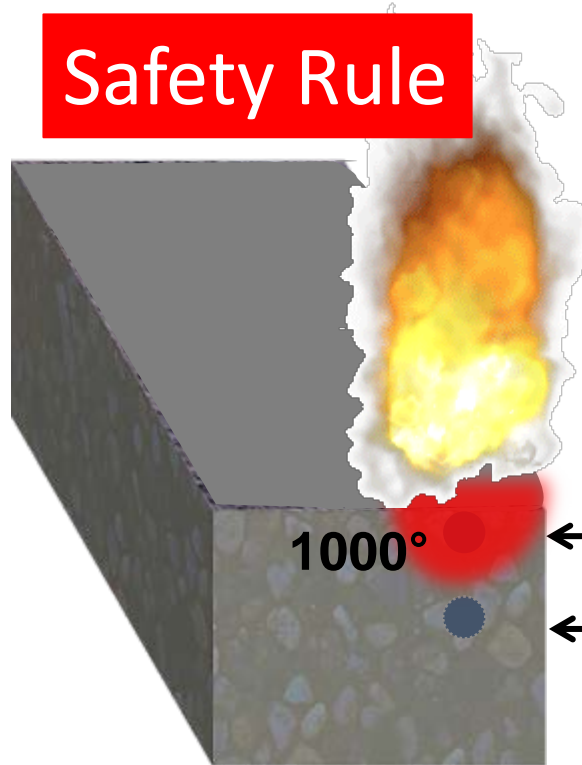
# What if the steel is set

Too Close to Surface- Less Cover

## Effect #1

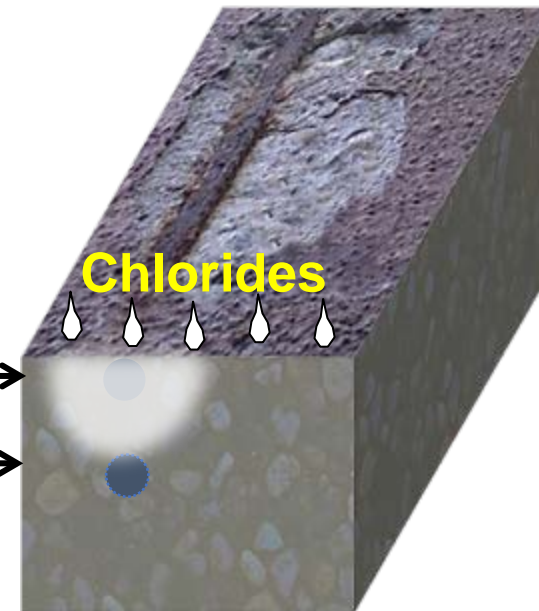
REDUCED FIRE RATING  
AS COVER INSULATES  
REBAR FROM HEAT

**Safety Rule**



## Effect #2

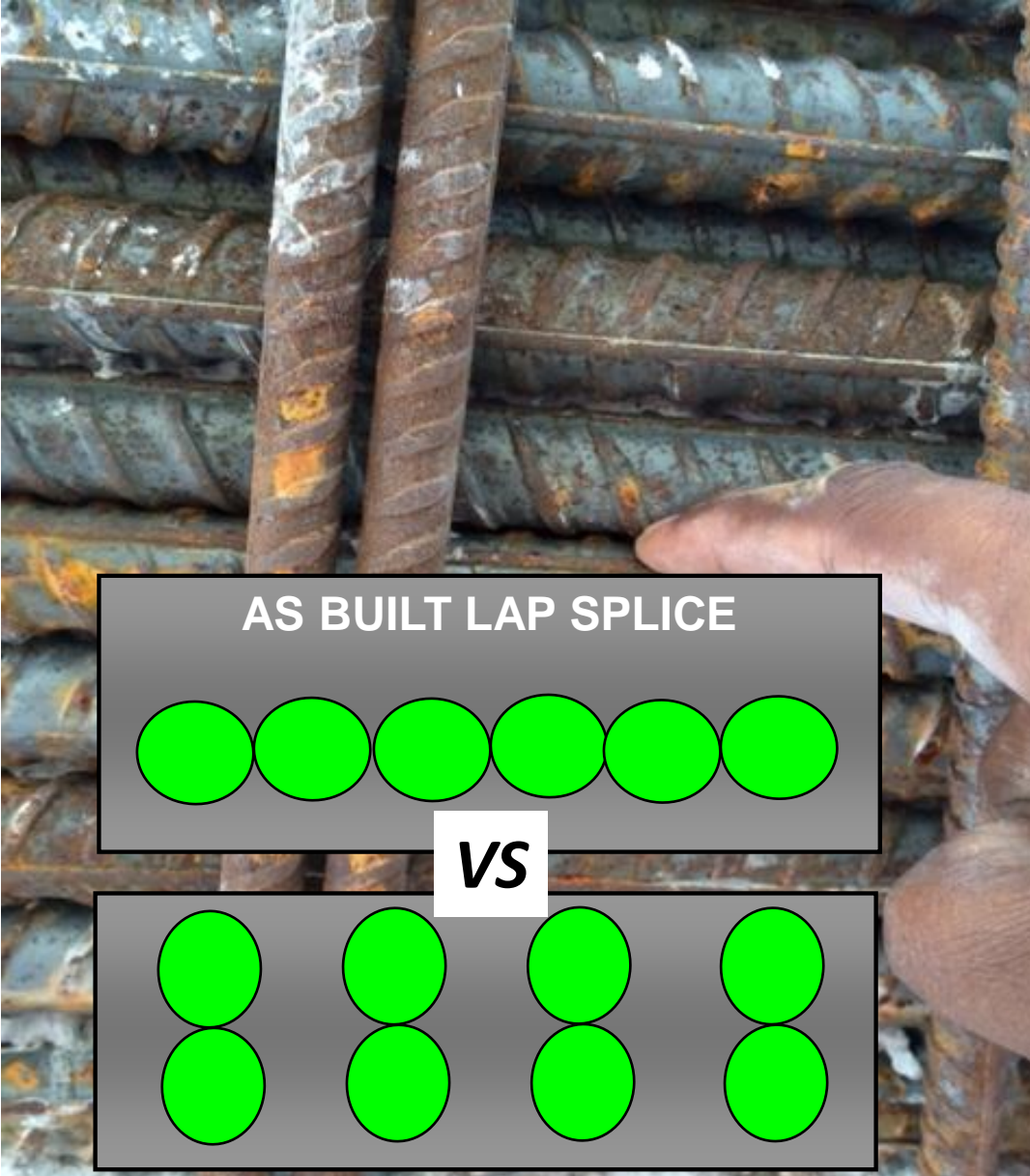
REDUCED CORROSION  
RESISTANCE AS COVER IS  
PROTECTION CHLORIDE  
FROM PENETRATION



As built

As designed

## What if the rebar is set too close?



Min. spacing between bars?

What can't get through?

**AGGREGATE!**

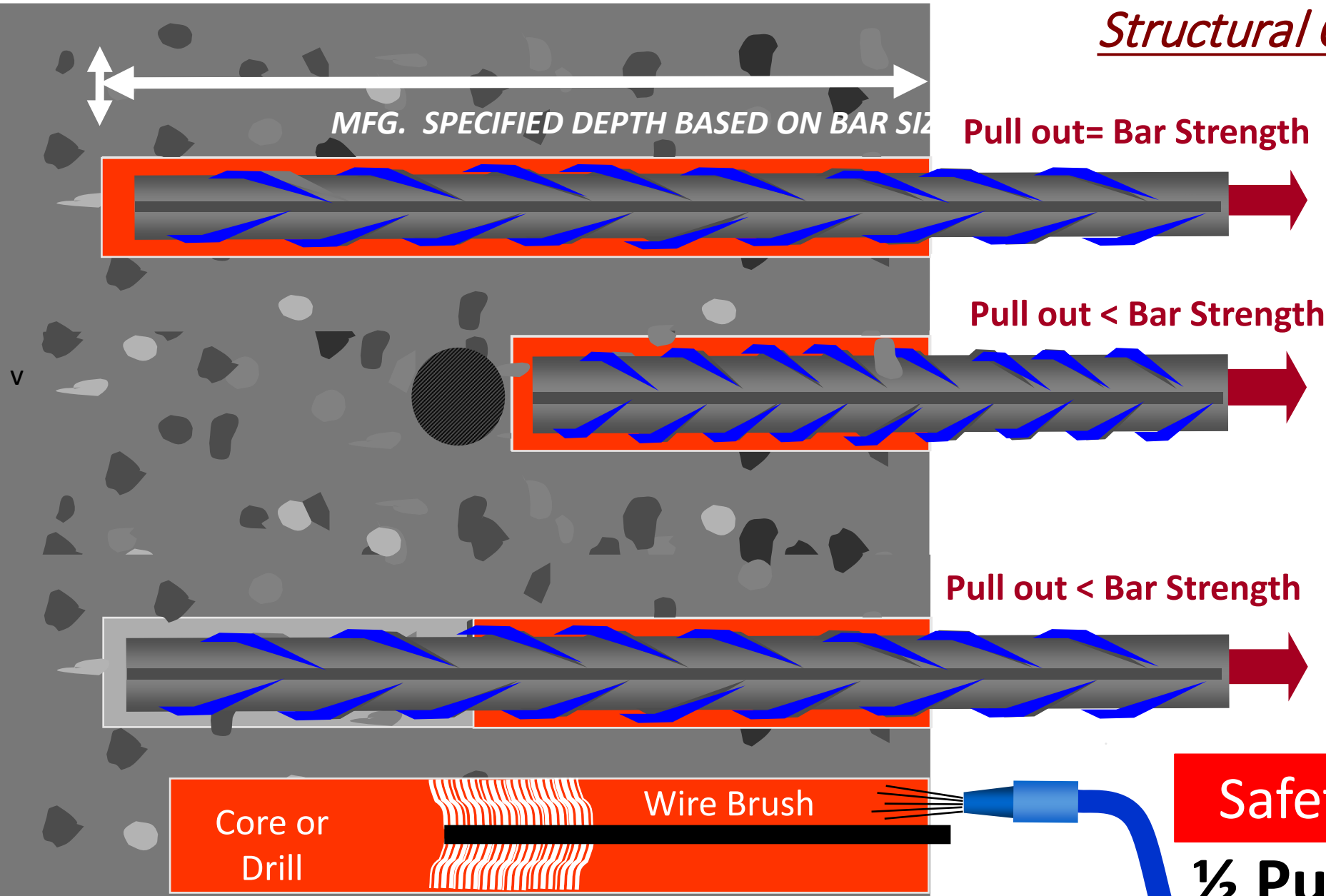
Min. Rebar Spacing Rule:  
1.5 X aggregate size!

$\frac{3}{4}$ " Aggregate = 1  $\frac{1}{8}$ " gap

Do you have a pre-pour  
check off process?  
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

**Safety Rule? Lap splice  
needs concrete!**

# Proper Doweling Procedures- Structural Connections



**Safety Rule**

**1/2 Pull Out**

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What are the most common defects?

How is reinforced/PT concrete designed- Eng. 101 for Contractors

Safe loading of structures during construction- OVERLOAD

Understanding the purpose of typical steel placement in:

- Beams, slabs, columns, shear walls

What if that steel is set in the wrong place?

- Too high, low or close

Avoiding concrete placement errors- Honeycombs & Voids

**Structural Safety issues to avoid when:**

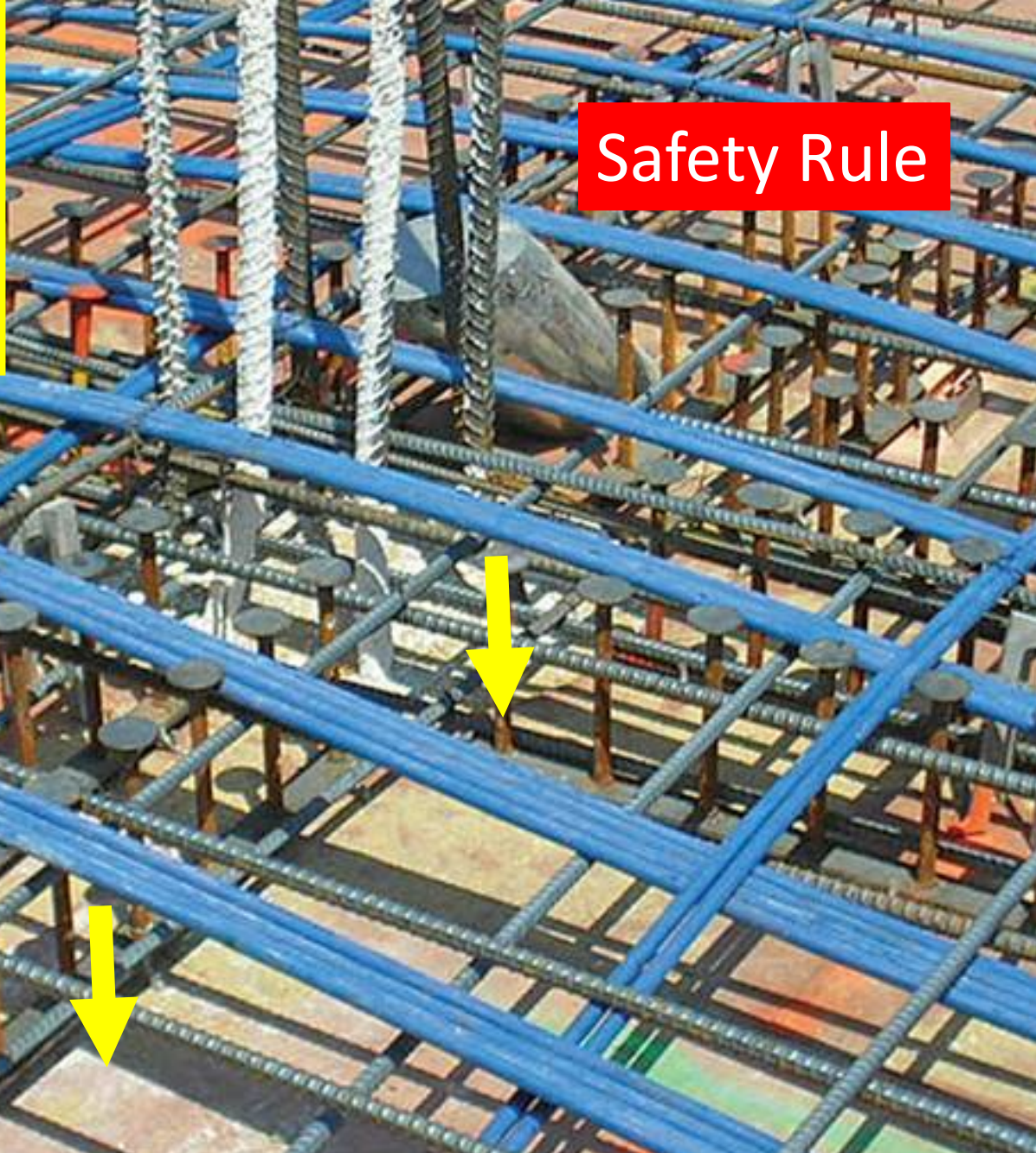
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Avoiding Shoring/Re-shoring & early loading of slab errors

Repair strategies if Structural Safety or defects occur

Incorporating Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process





Safety Rule

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? DO YOU HAVE A PRE-PLANNING PROCESS?



# CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE CHIPPING, CORING, CUTTING SLABS

Safety Rule

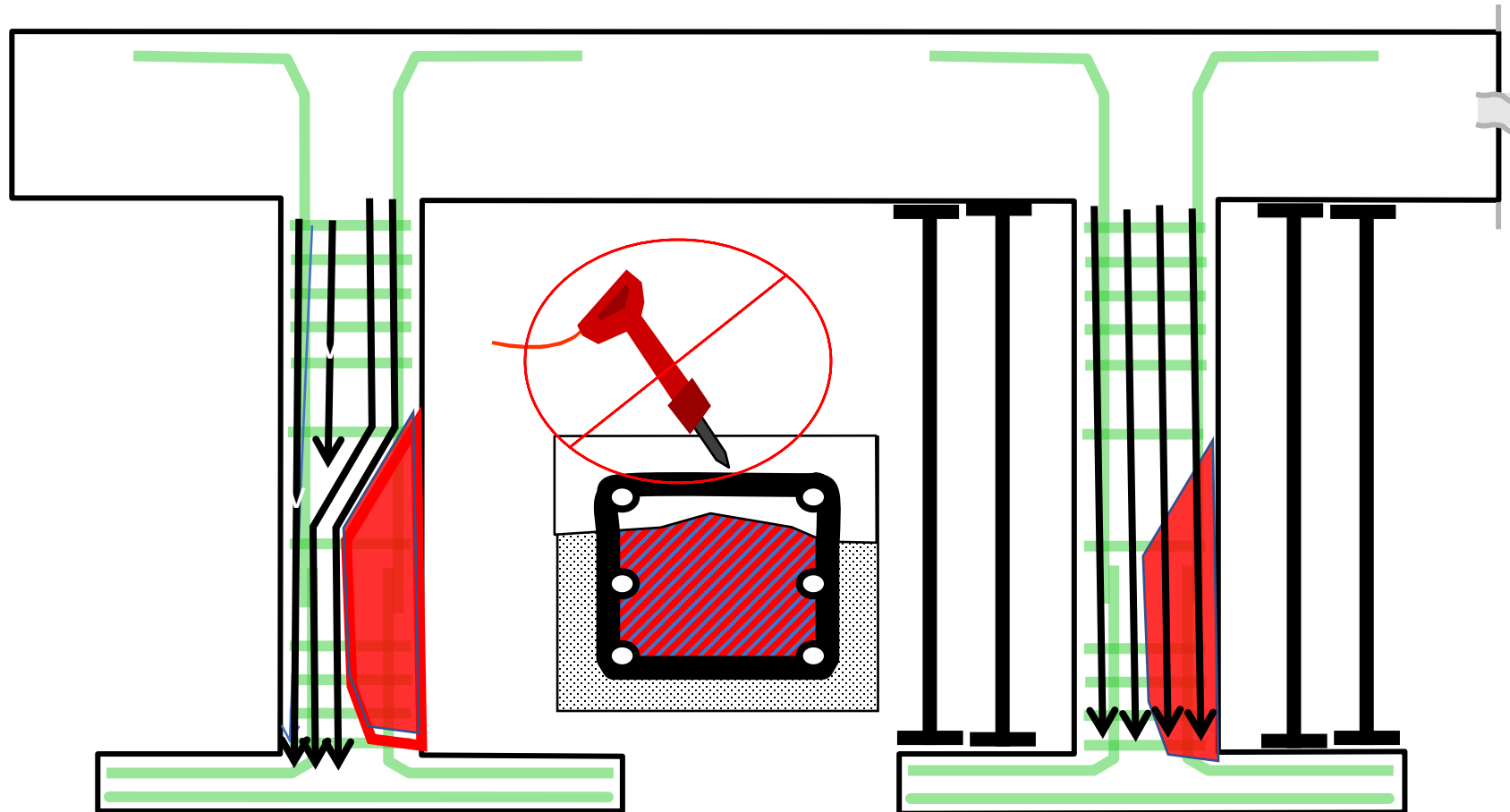


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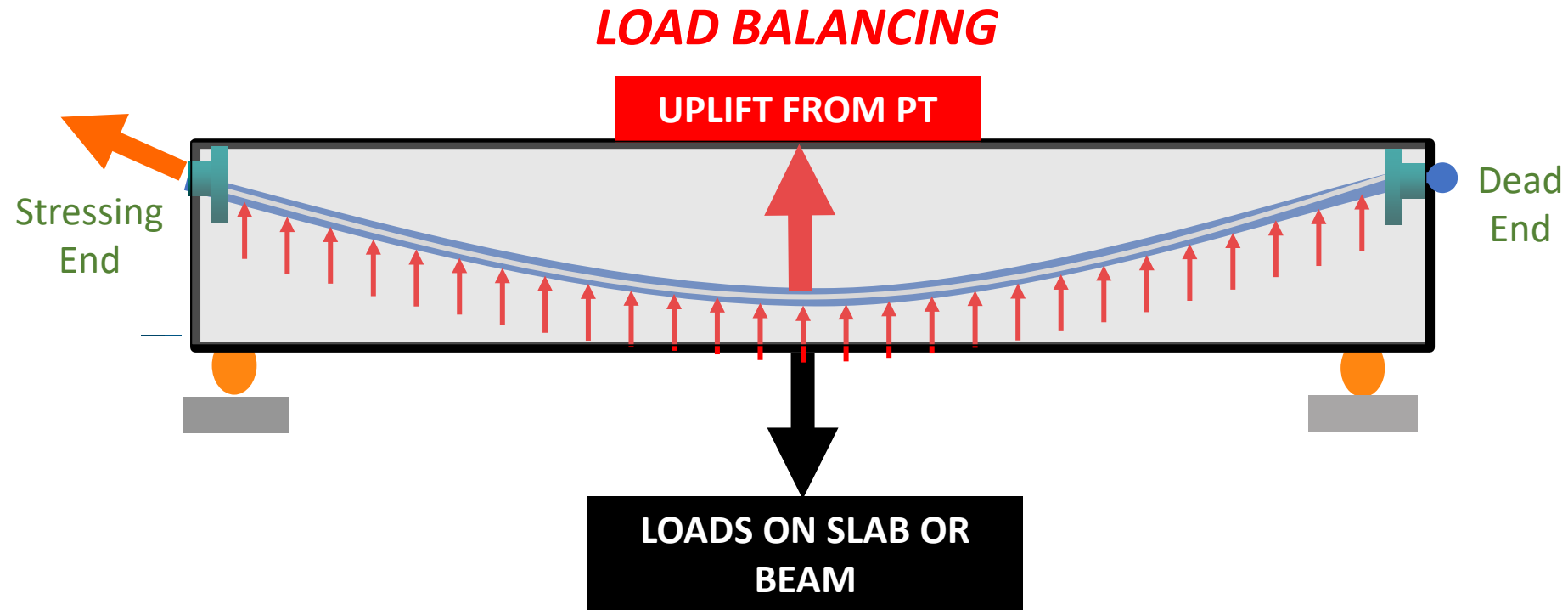
# CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE CHIPPING COLUMNS & SHEAR WALLS

1. WHERE IS THE STEEL
2. DO I NEED TO SHORE?



**Safety Rule- NEVER CHIP INSIDE STR. CORE!**

# Post Tensioned Concrete- How does it work in a slab or beam?



## WHY POST TENSION?

- Less columns & longer spans
- Less cracking (in compression)
- Faster construction (after stressing forms pulled)

**PT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**  
**During stressing, de-tensioning  
field investigation and repairs**

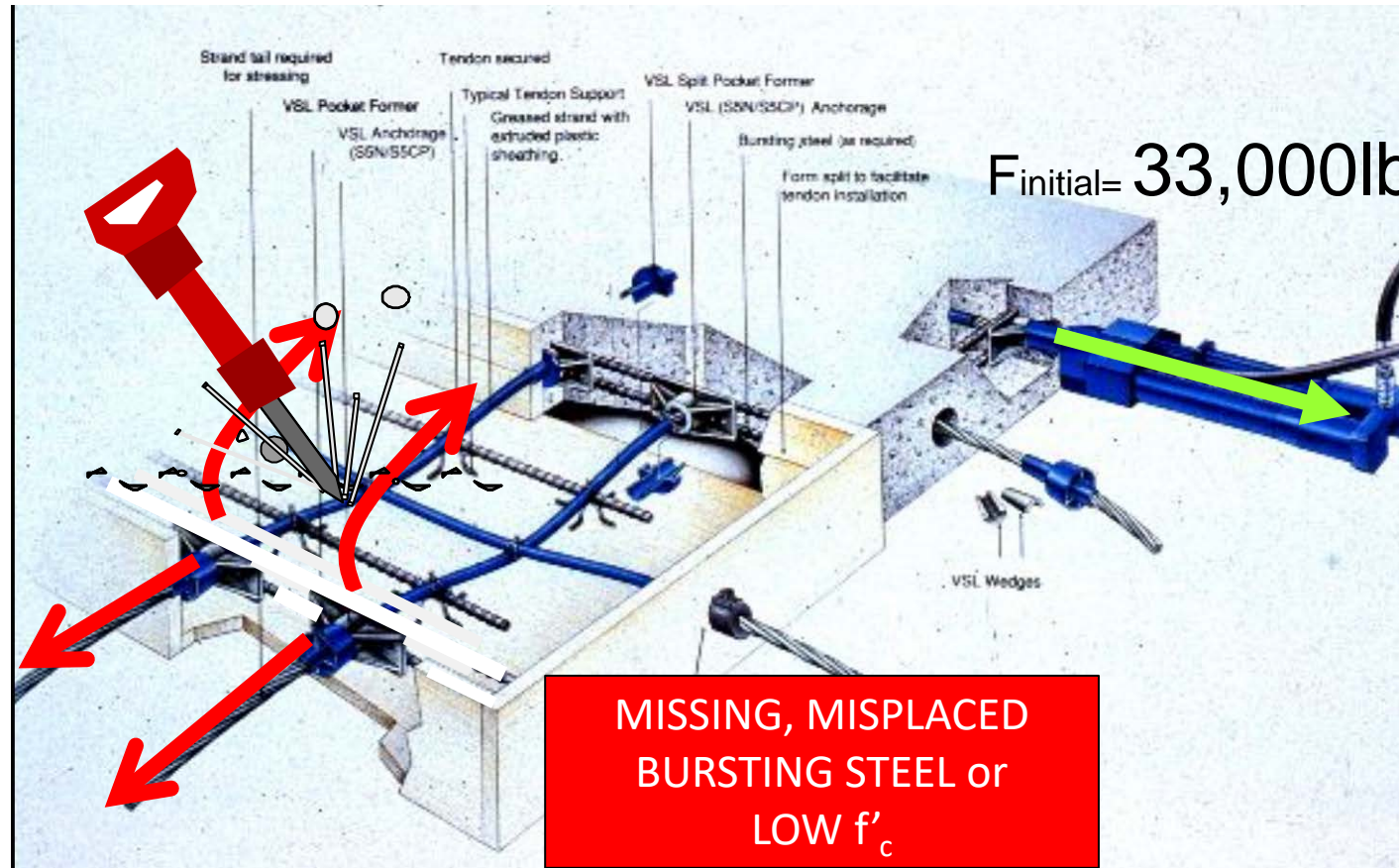


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# Post Tension Safety Considerations

## CONCRETE REMOVAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

### Stay out of ‘Line of Fire’

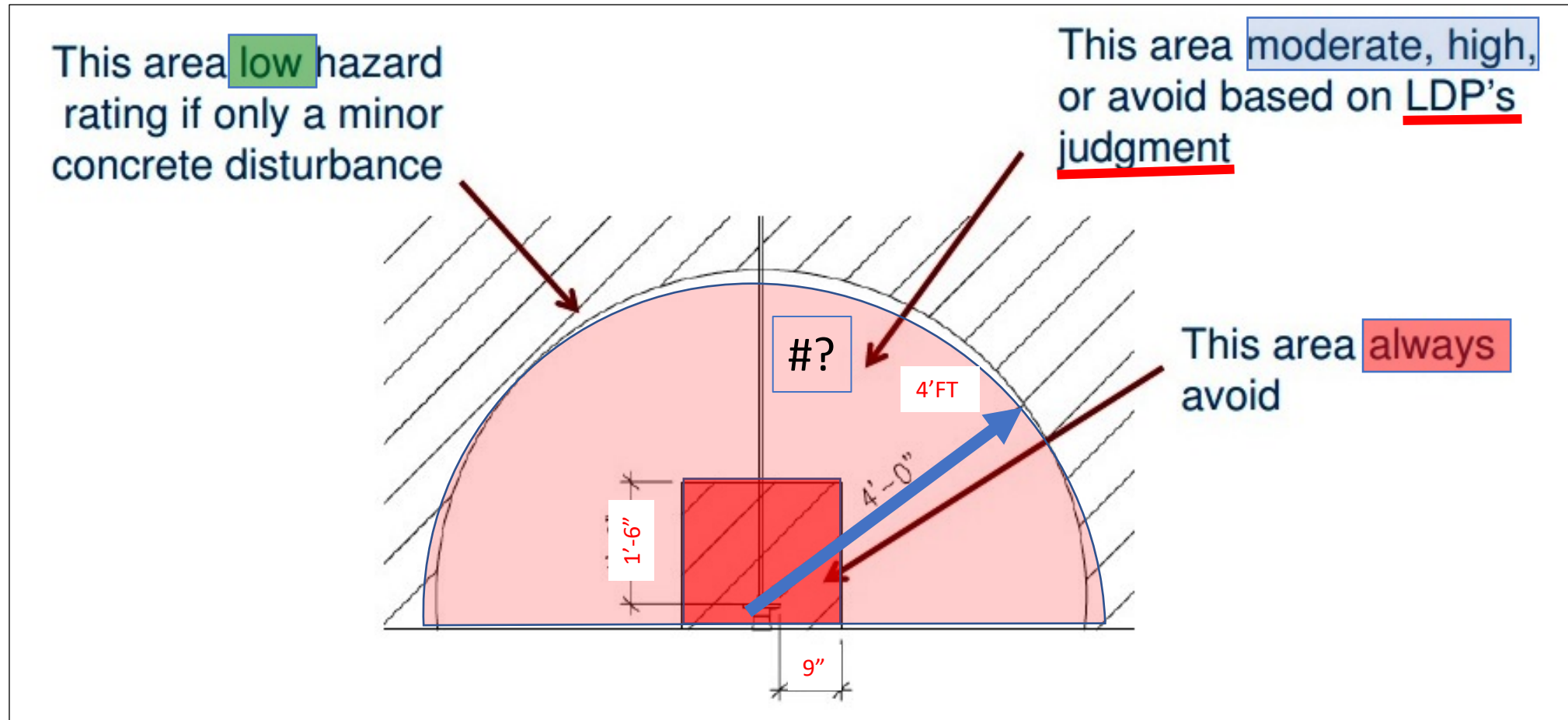




# Post Tension Safety Considerations

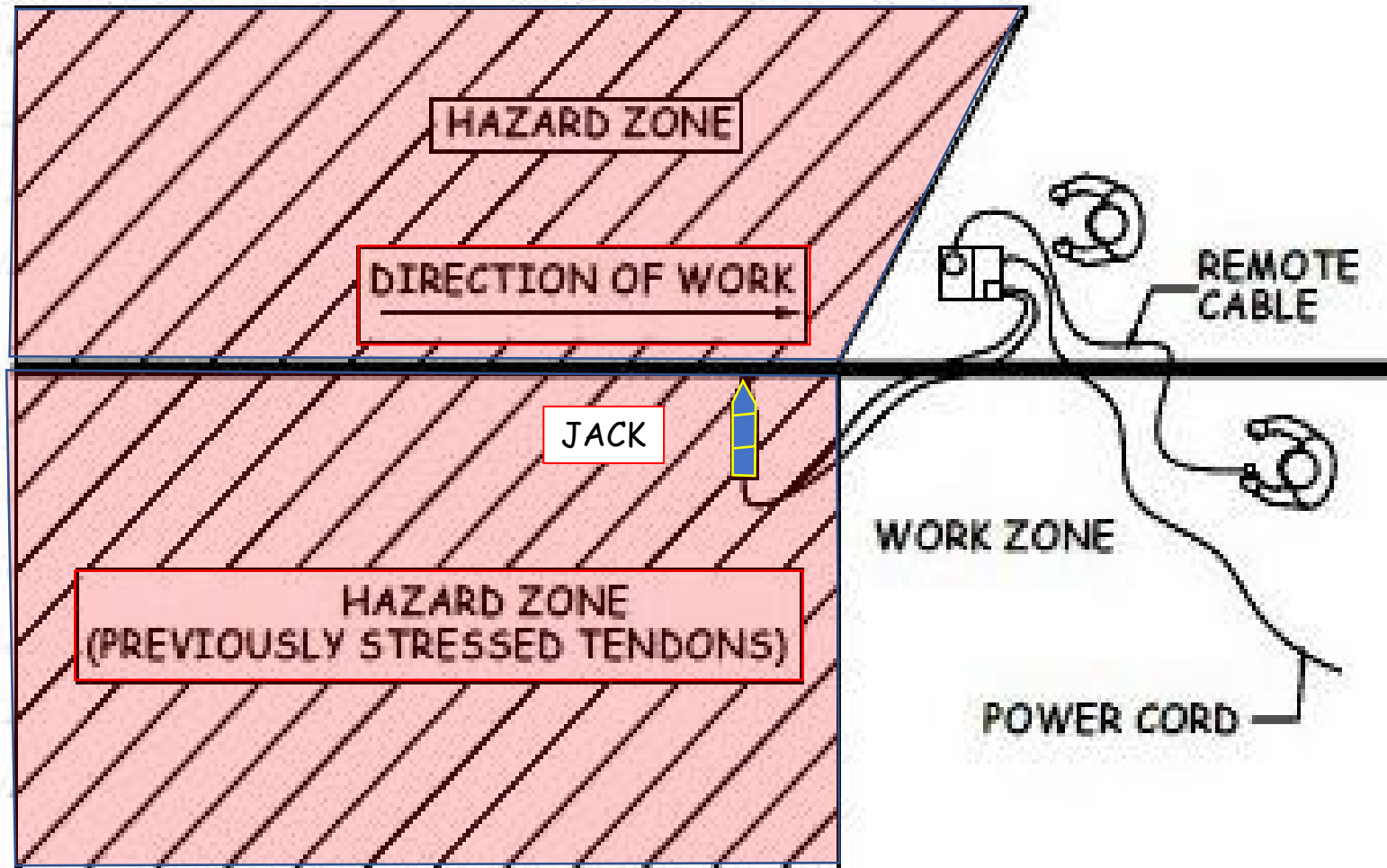
## CONCRETE REMOVAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

### Stay out of 'Line of Fire'



# Post Tension Safety Considerations

## STRESSING SAFETY GUIDELINES (PTI)- Line of Fire Rule



1  
51

### STRESSING SAFETY DETAIL

(NTS)



## SUMMARY

How to Incorporate Structural Safety in your Pre-planning Process?

Much Like Your Safety Program it requires, Training, Knowledge, Procedures, Preplanning & Commitment

*I will not walk by an UNSAFE ACT*

*SAFETY will not be waived for PROFIT*

*If I SEE something, I will SAY something*

*I have the ability to STAND DOWN a job*

1. Proper shoring/re-shoring
2. Pre pour review checklist
3. Managing loads for construction materials or debris
4. Before you cut, core, chip concrete

# Questions?

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structural



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