A Personal Perspective

Just over a year ago, the team responsible for the ‘Prop Pal’ needle system told me about an exciting new product called the ‘Brickbud’. Eager to find out more, I got in touch to arrange an interview for Executive Hire News magazine. At the time, I was keen to understand more about their approach to construction safety and the challenges facing the hire and building sectors.

As we spoke, the subject of wall blowdowns soon came up – and for me, this quickly became more than a professional discussion.

In particular, wall blowdowns hit close to home. Many years ago, the son of my father’s cousin lost his life in exactly this way.

He was only a youngster, playing in a nearby building site. He certainly should have known better, but the weather changed and the wall he was hiding behind collapsed, trapping him beneath and tragically causing his death.

Brickbud inventor Carl Harris also suffered the consequences of a wall blowdown – an event that eventually led to the development of his unique safety device. Yet, unsafe working practices still prevail in many jobsites.

My conversation with Carl highlighted a stark fact – wall blowdowns are not only a risk within construction, but they are also only acknowledged after someone has been seriously injured or killed.

Speaking with the Brickbud team made it clear that this is exactly the problem they are trying to solve - not by reacting after the event, but by addressing the risk before conditions change and lives are put in danger.

This is why the Brickbud matters – because behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a life that should never have been lost.

Andy McVittie

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