

# Advancements in Force Transfer Around Openings for Wood Framed Shear Walls



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# Advancements in Force Transfer Around Openings for Wood Framed Shear Walls



# Learning Objectives

- Investigate past and current methods for determining force transfer around openings for wood shear walls
- Compare the effects of different sizes of openings and full-height piers, and their relationships to the three industry standards for calculation of force transfer around openings
- Assess new design methodologies for accurately estimating the forces around multiple openings with asymmetric piers
- Estimate the deflections for shear walls designed using the force transfer around openings design method
- Apply the FTAO design methodology to an example
- Introduce APA's new force transfer around opening design resources

# Shear Wall Design Challenges (SDPWS-15 4.3.5)



## Segmented

1. Aspect Ratio up to 2:1 for wind and seismic
2. Aspect ratio up to 3.5:1, if allowable shear is reduced by  $1.25-0.125h/bs$



## Perforated

1. Code provides specific requirements
2. The capacity is determined based on empirical equations and tables

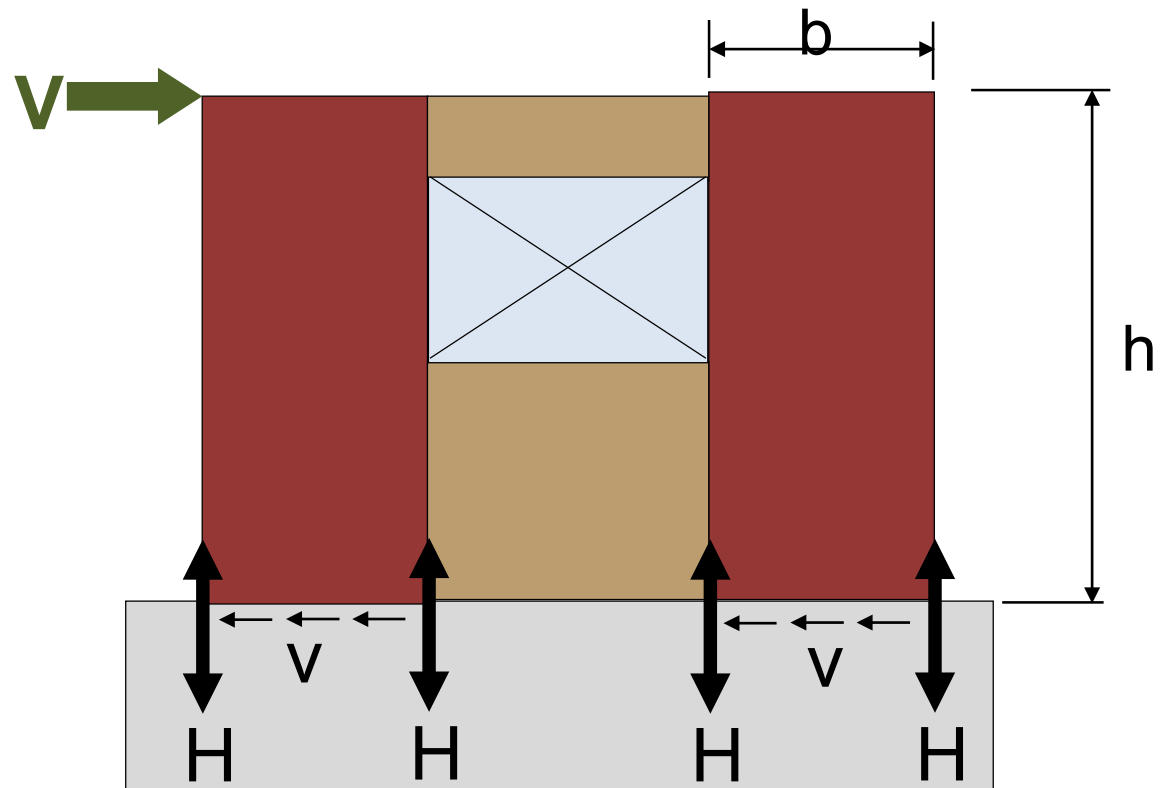


## Force Transfer

1. Code does not provide guidance for this method
2. Different approaches using rational analysis could be used

# Segmented Wood Shear Walls (SDPWS-15 Section 4.3.5.1)

- Only full height segments are considered
- Max aspect ratio
  - \* 2:1 – without adjustment
  - \* 3.5:1 – with adjustment
  - \* Updated in SDPWS-15

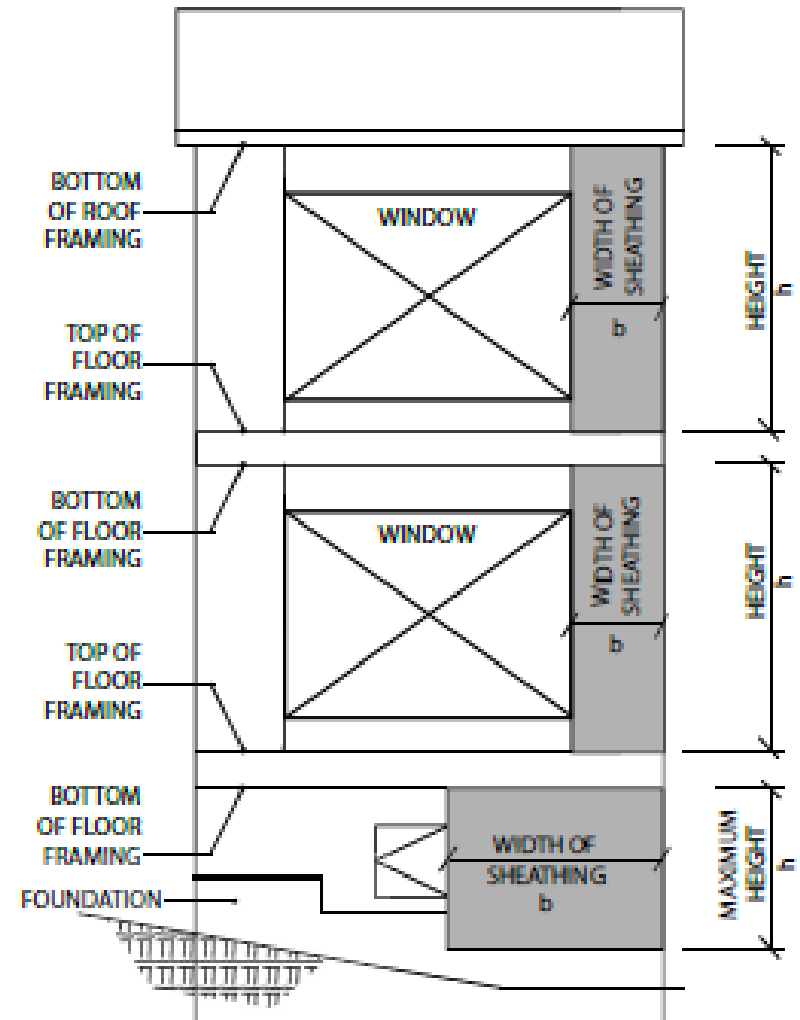


Aspect ratio  $h:b_s$  as shown in figure

# Segmented Wood Shear Walls

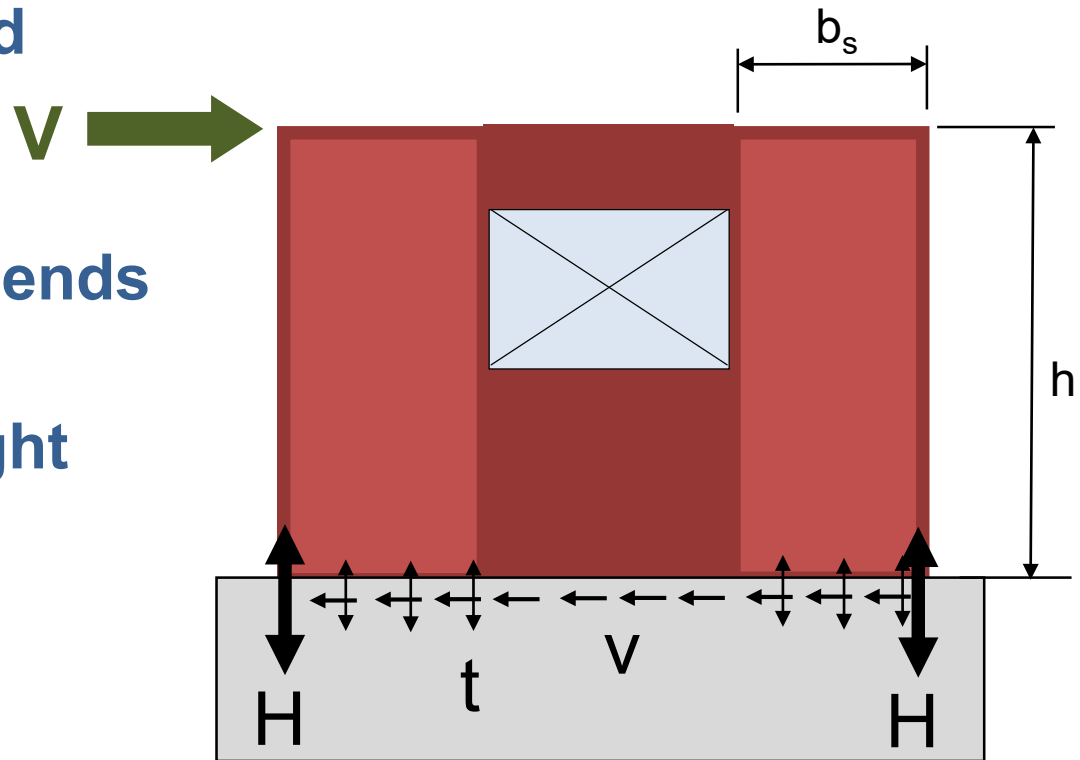
## Aspect Ratios SDPWS-15

- **Standard shear walls**  
**Figure 4D**
  - Wall width is defined as width of the full height sheathing adjacent to the opening but sheathing IS NOT required above and below openings
  - $h:w$  must not exceed 2:1 or 3.5:1 ratio depending on sheathing material



# Perforated Shear Walls (SDPWS-15 4.3.5.3)

- Openings accounted for by empirical adjustment factor
- Hold-downs only at ends
- Uplift between hold downs,  $t$ , at full height segments is also required
- Limited to 870 plf (ASD, seismic)



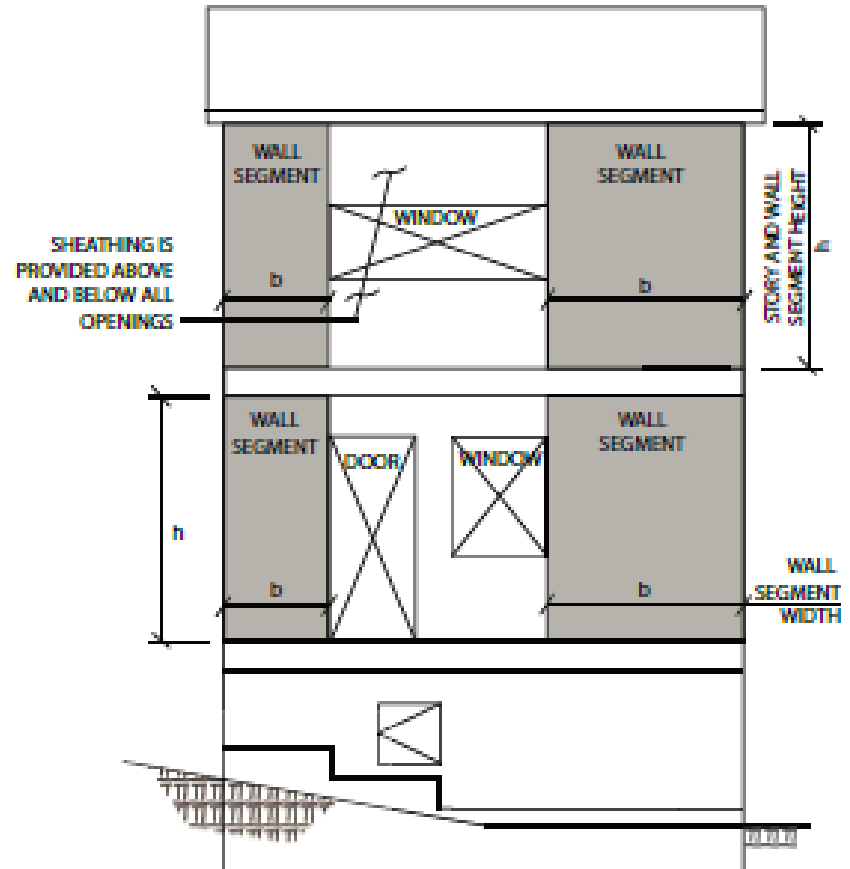
Aspect ratio applies to full height segment (dotted)

# Perforated Shear Walls

## Aspect Ratios SDPWS-15

### ■ Perforated shear walls Figure 4C

- Wall width is defined as width of the full height sheathing adjacent to the opening but full sheathing is provided above and below openings
- $h:w$  must not exceed 2:1 or 3.5:1 ratio depending on sheathing material

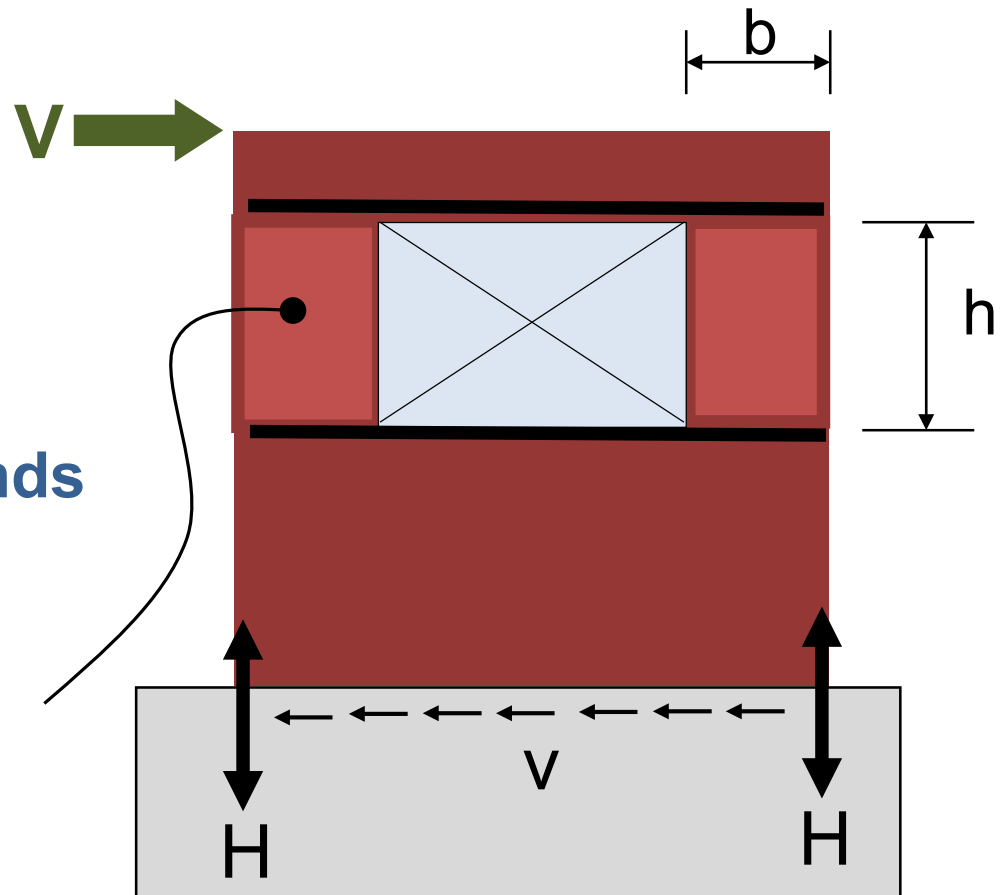


Note:  $b_s$  is the minimum shear wall segment length,  $b$ , in the perforated shear wall.



# FTAO Shear Walls (SDPWS-15 Section 4.3.5.2)

- Openings accounted for by strapping or framing
  - “based on a rational analysis”
- Hold-downs only at ends
- H/w ratio defined by wall pier



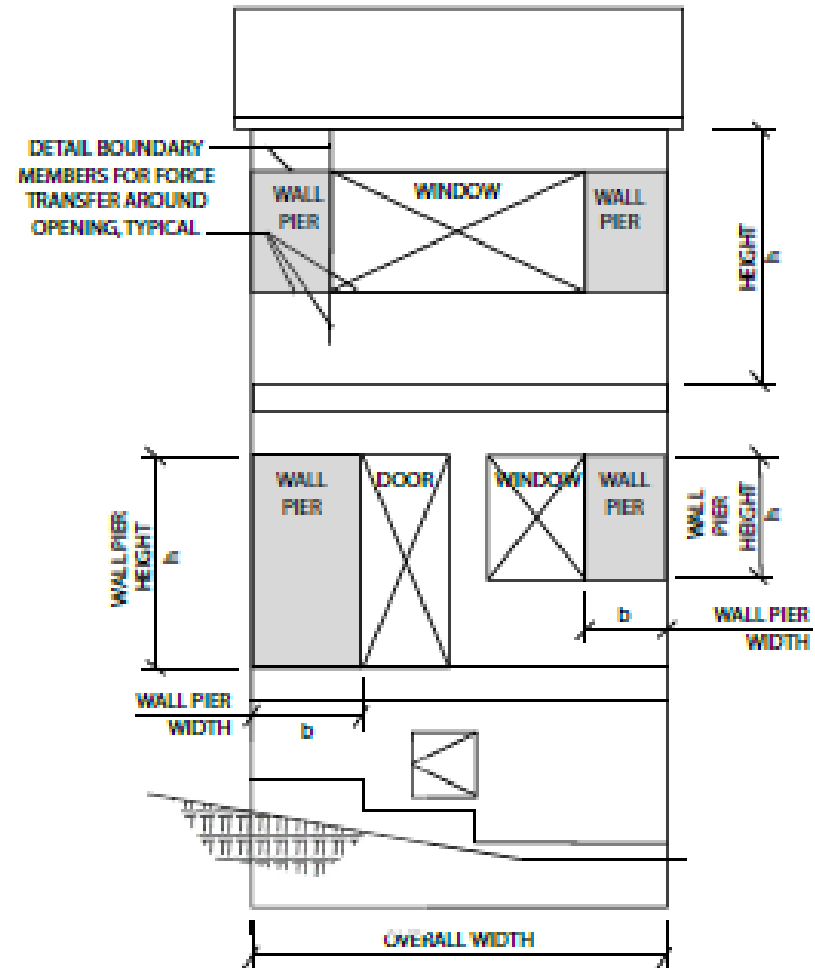
Aspect ratio  $h:b$  as shown in figure

# FTAO Shear Walls

## Aspect Ratio SDPWS-15

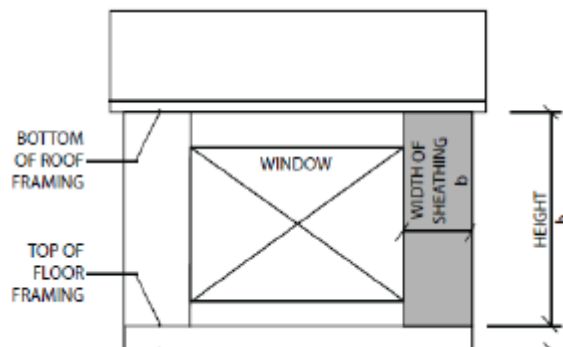
### ■ Force Transfer Shear Walls Figure 4E

- Width of wall is defined as width of the full height sheathing adjacent to the opening and the height is the same as the opening height
- $h:w$  must not exceed 2:1 or 3.5:1 ratio

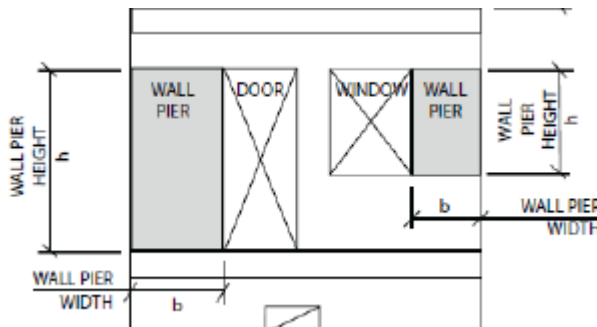


# Aspect ratio (SDPWS-15 4.3.4.2)

- Definition of  $h$  and  $w$  is the same as previous code
- ALL shear walls with  $2:1 < \text{aspect ratios} \leq 3.5:1$  shall apply reduction factor, aspect ratio factor
  - Formerly applied only to high seismic
- Aspect Ratio Factor (WSP) =  $1.25 - 0.125h/bs$



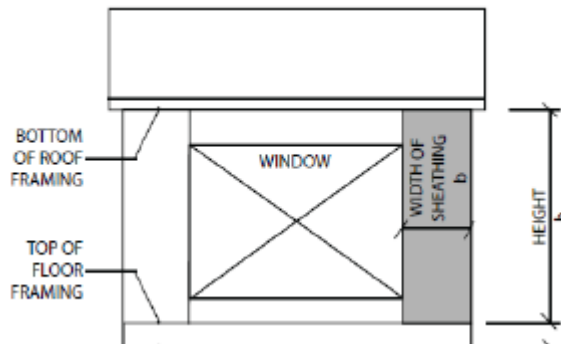
Excerpt Fig 4D  
h:w ratio Segmented



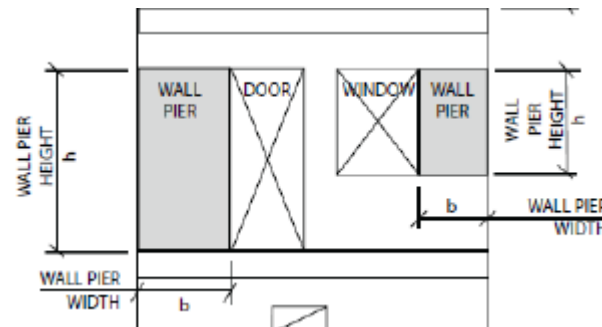
Excerpt Fig. 4E  
h:w ratio FTAO

# Shear distribution to shear walls in line (SDPWS-15 4.3.3.4.1)

- Individual shear walls in line shall provide the same calculated deflection. Exception:
  - Nominal shear capacities of shear walls having  $2:1 < \text{aspect ratio} \leq 3.5:1$  are multiplied by  $2bs/h$  for design. Aspect ratio factor (4.3.4.2) need not be applied.



Excerpt Fig 4D  
h:w ratio Segmented



Excerpt Fig. 4E  
h:w ratio FTAO

# Shear Wall Design Challenges





# Shear Wall Design Challenges

## Typical FTAO Application

- **Residential, Multifamily**
  - Single Opening
  - Design assumes equal pier width
- **Commercial**
  - Strap continuous wall line above and below openings
  - Fully sheath wall

## Field Survey

- **18+ sites fall 2010 (LA, Orange and San Diego Counties)**
- **Multi-Family**
  - 40-90% of all shear applications utilized FTAO
- **Single-Family**
  - 80% Minimum 1-application on front or back elevation
  - 70% Multiple applications on front, back or both
  - 25% Side wall application in addition to front or back application



# History of FTAO Research at APA

## **Joint research project**

- **APA - The Engineered Wood Association (Skaggs & Yeh)**
- **University of British Columbia (Lam & Li),**
- **USDA Forest Products Laboratory (Rammer & Wacker)**

## **Study was initiated in 2009 to:**

- **Examine the variations of walls with code-allowable openings**
- **Examines the internal forces generated during full-scale testing**
- **Evaluate the effects of size of openings, size of full-height piers, and different construction techniques**
- **Create analytical modeling to mimic testing data**

# Research Overview

## Study results will be used to:

- Support design methodologies in estimating the forces around the openings
- Develop rational design methodologies for adoption in the building codes and supporting standards
- Create new tools/methodology for designers to facilitate use of FTAO





# Different Techniques for FTAO

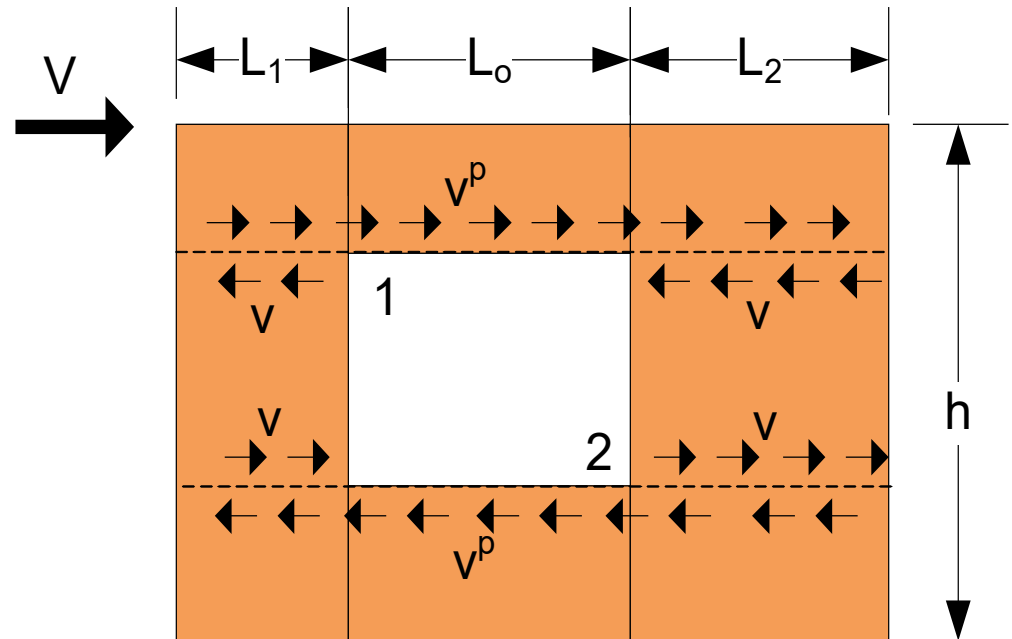
- **Drag Strut Analogy**
- **Cantilever Beam Analogy**
- **Diekmann Method**
  - **Thompson Method**



# Different Techniques for FTAO

## ■ Drag Strut Analogy

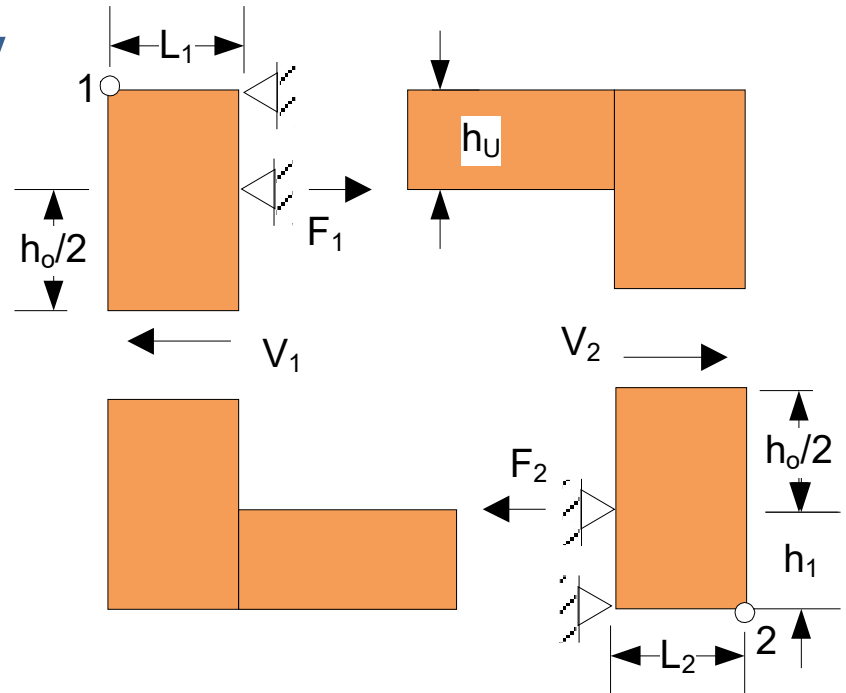
- Forces are collected and concentrated into the areas above and below openings
- Strap forces are a function of opening and pier widths



# Different Techniques for FTAO

## ■ Cantilever Beam Analogy

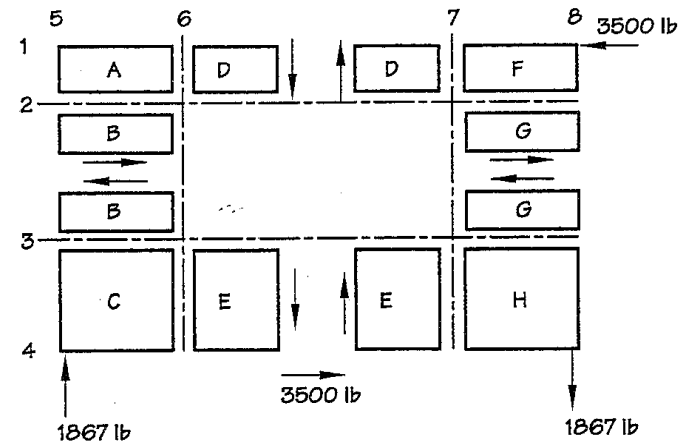
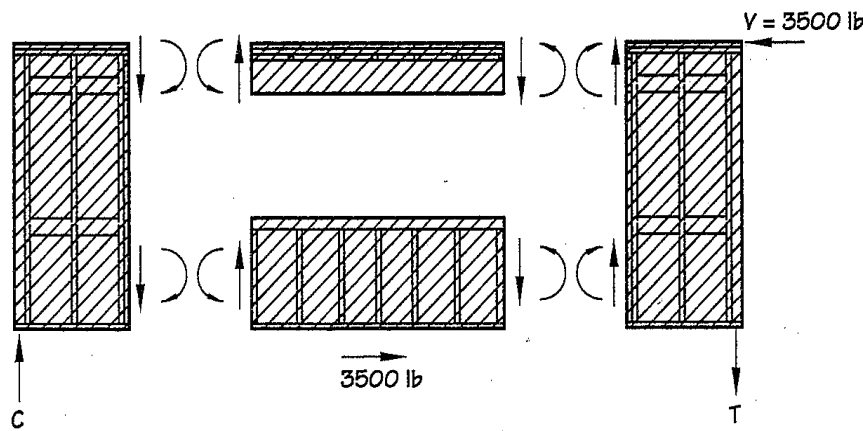
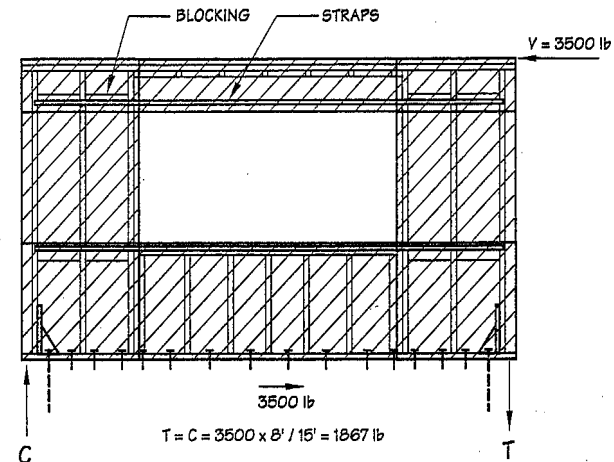
- Forces are treated as moment couples
- Segmented panels are piers at sides of openings
- Strap forces are a function of height above and below opening and pier widths



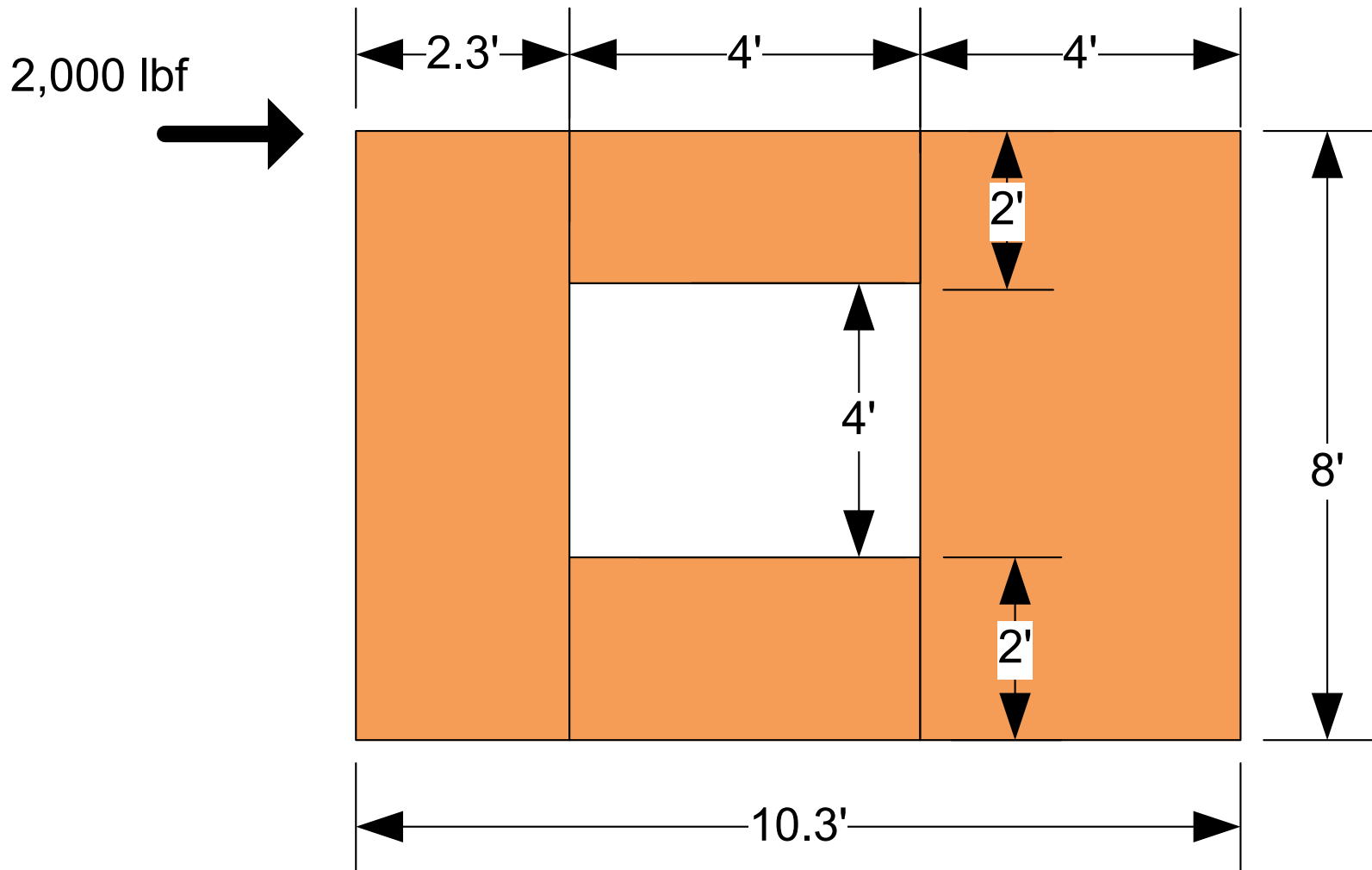
# Different Techniques for FTAO

## ■ Diekmann

- Assumes wall behaves as monolith
- Internal forces resolved via principles of mechanics

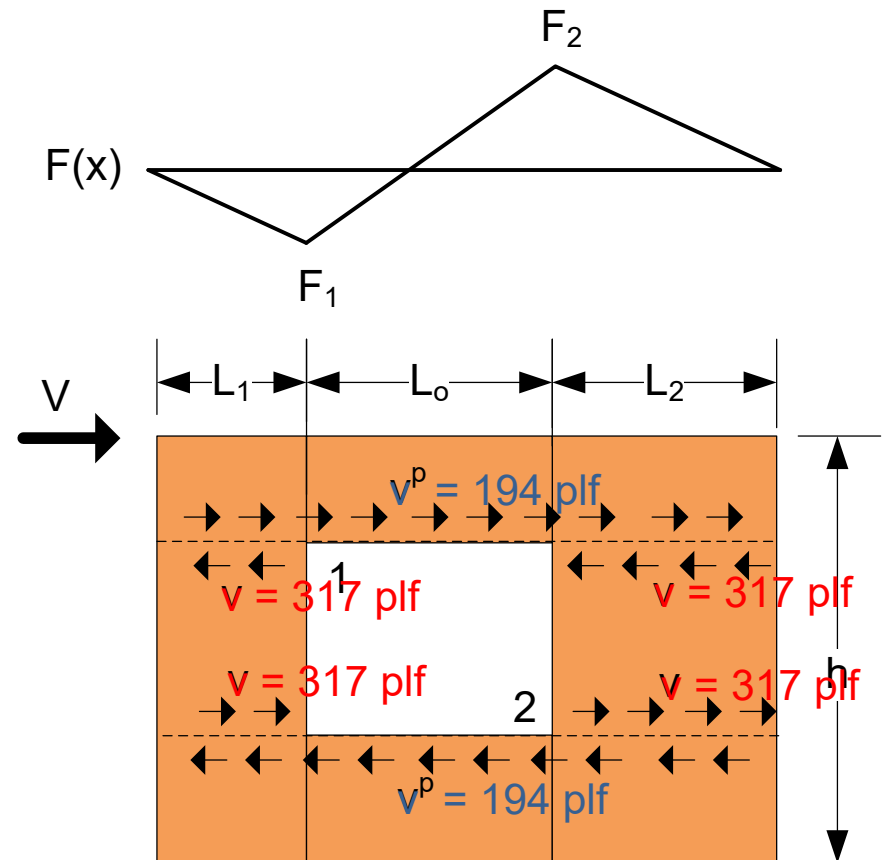


# Design Examples



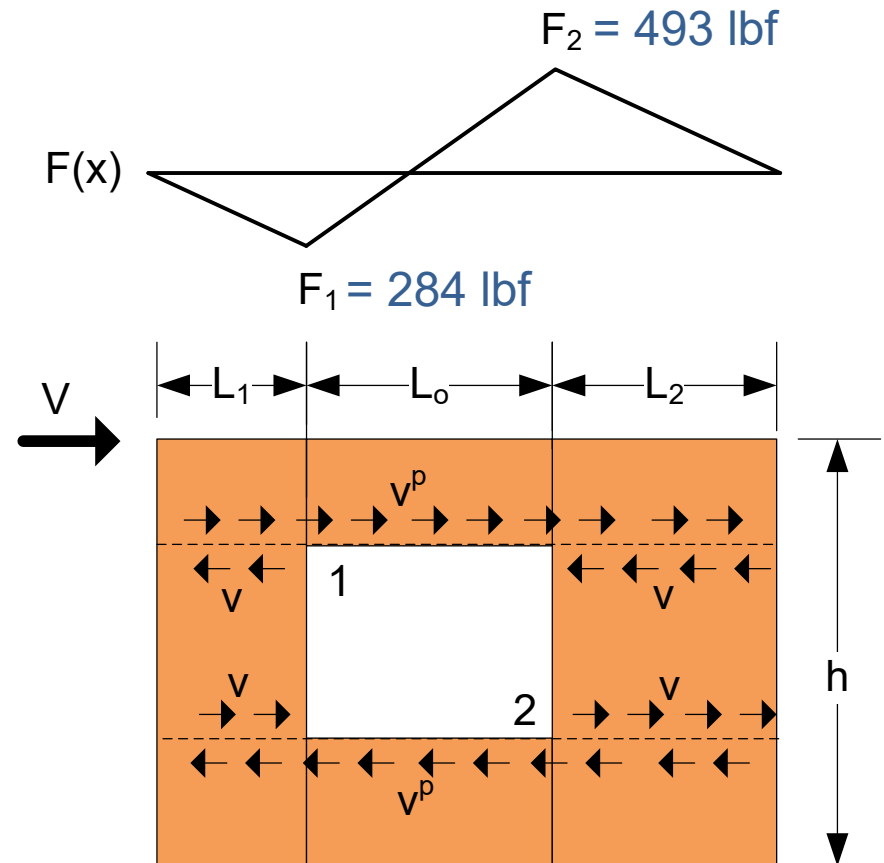
# Ex. 1 – Drag Strut Analogy

- $v^p = 2,000 / (10.3) = 194$  plf
- $v = 2,000 / (2.3 + 4) = 317$  plf



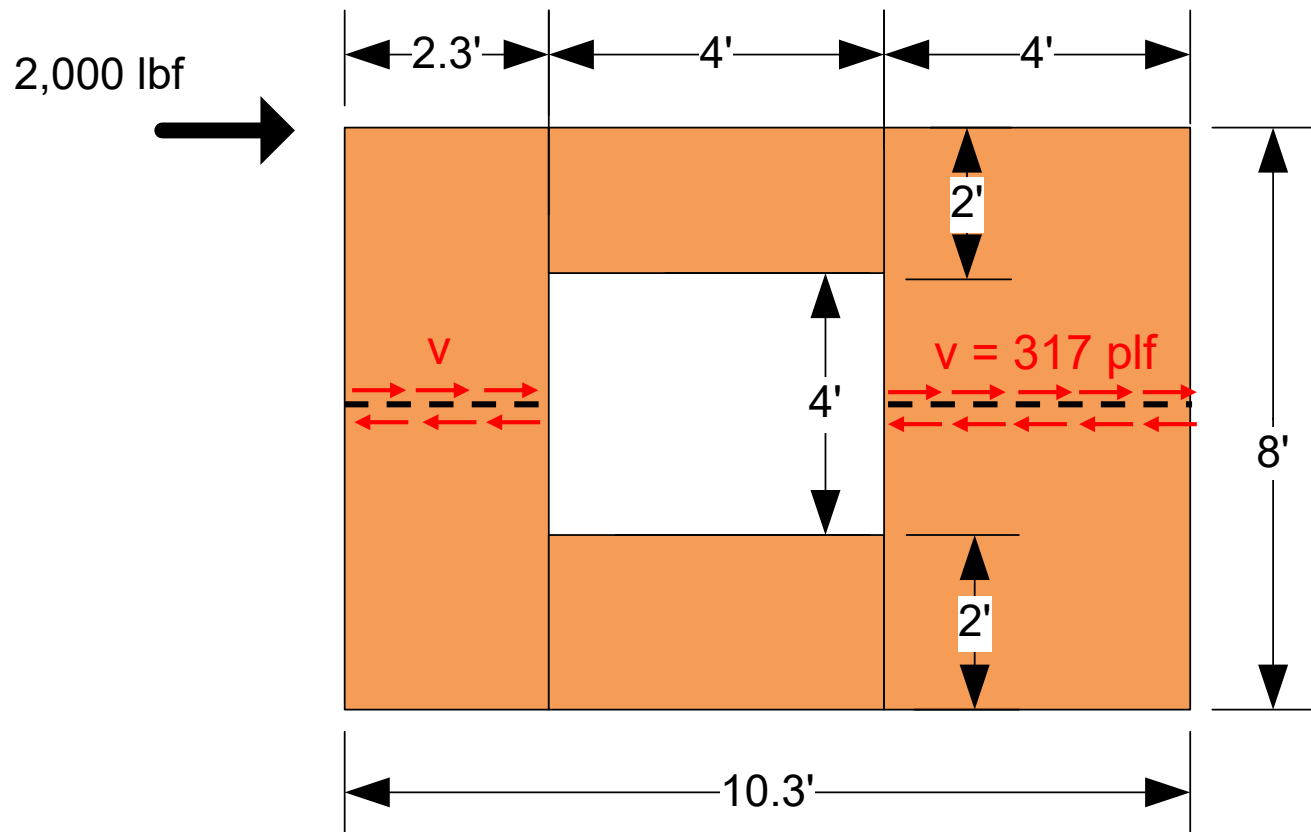
# Ex. 1 – Drag Strut Analogy

- $F_1 = (317-194)*L_1$
- $F_2 = (317-194)*L_2$
- $F_1 = (317-194)*2.3 = 284 \text{ lbf}$
- $F_2 = (317-194)*4 = 493 \text{ lbf}$



# Ex. 2 – Cantilever Beam Analogy

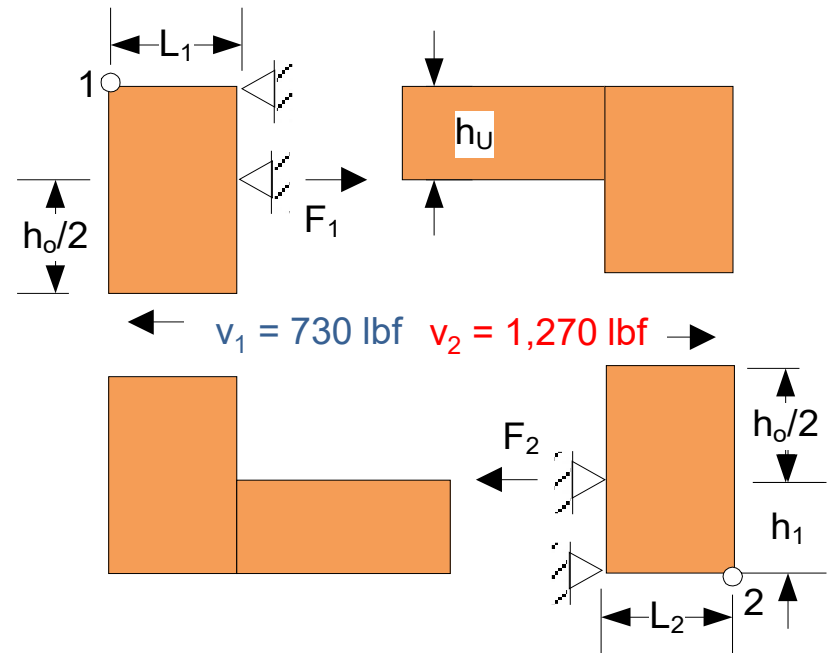
- $v = 2,000 / (2.3 + 4) = 317 \text{ plf}$





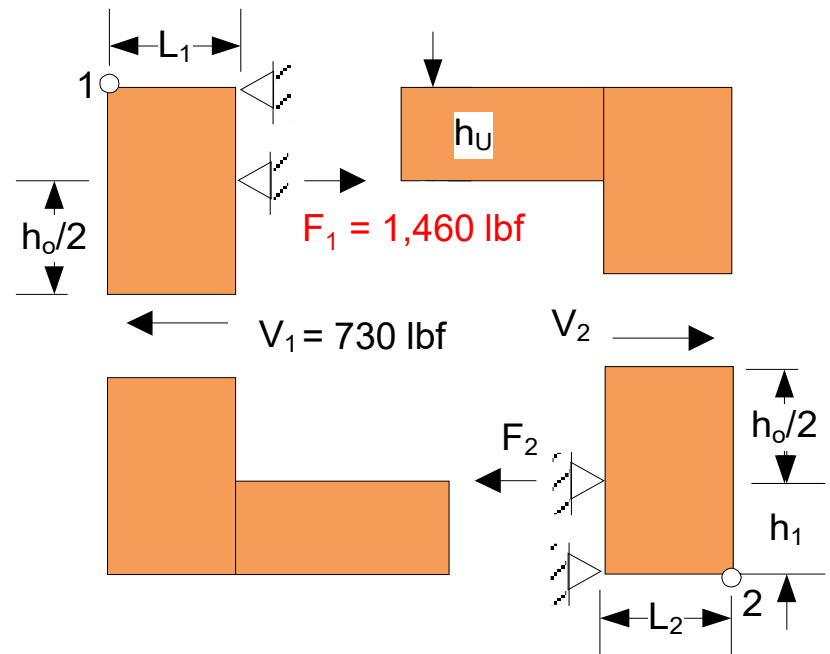
# Ex. 2 – Cantilever Beam Analogy

- $v = 2,000 / (2.3 + 4) = 317$  plf
- $V_1 = 317 * 2.3 = 730$  lbf
- $V_2 = 317 * 4 = 1,270$  lbf



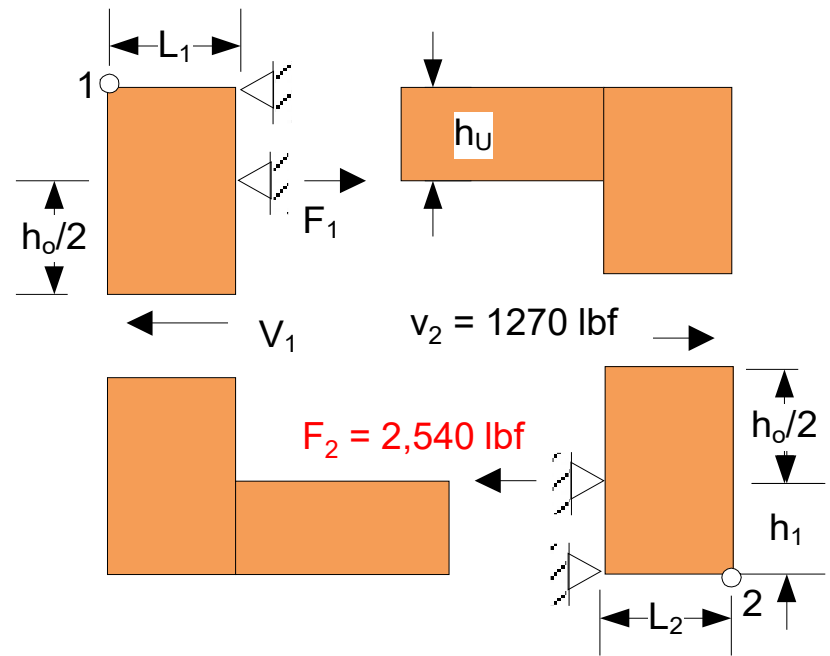
# Ex. 2 – Cantilever Beam Analogy

- $\sum M_1 = 0$
- $F_1 * h_u = v_1 * (h_u + h_o/2)$
- $F_1 * 2 = 730 * (2 + 4/2)$
- $F_1 = (730 * 4)/2 = 1,460 \text{ lbf}$



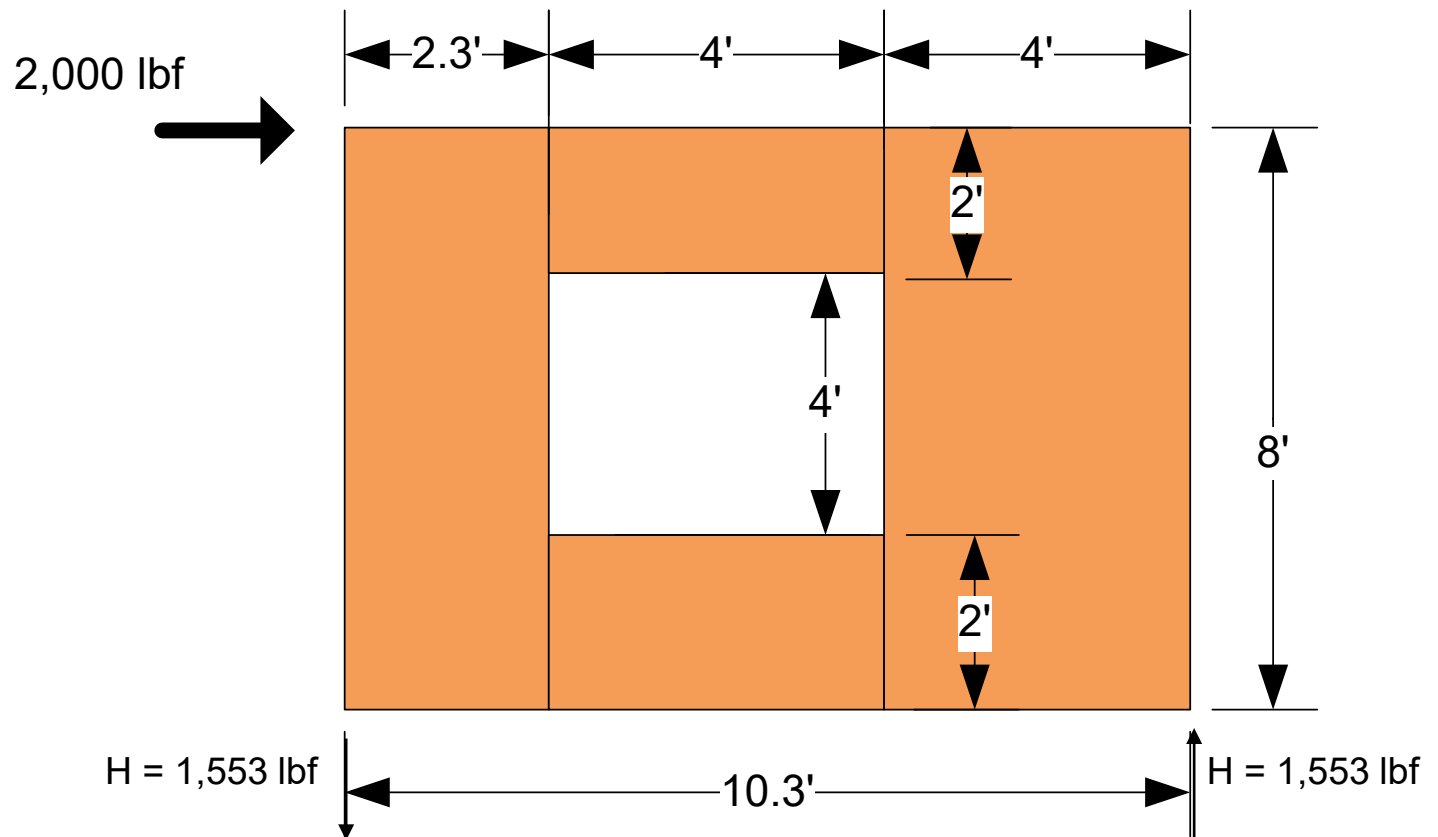
# Ex. 2 – Cantilever Beam Analogy

- $\sum M_2 = 0$
- $F_2 * h_L = v_2 * (h_L + h_o/2)$
- $F_2 * 2 = 1,270 * (2 + 4/2)$
- $F_2 = (1,270 * 4)/2 = 2,540 \text{ lbf}$



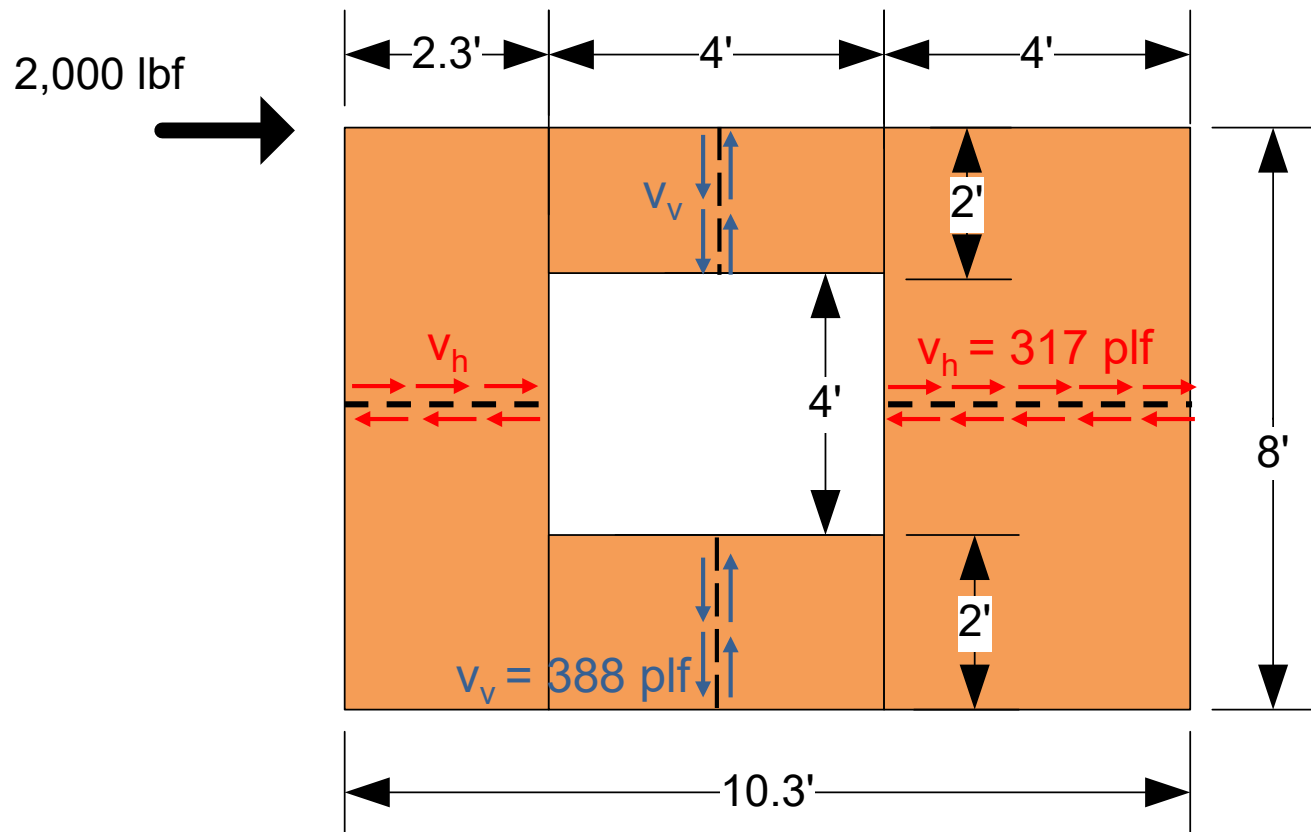
# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique

- $H = (2,000 * 8) / 10.3 = 1,553 \text{ lbf}$



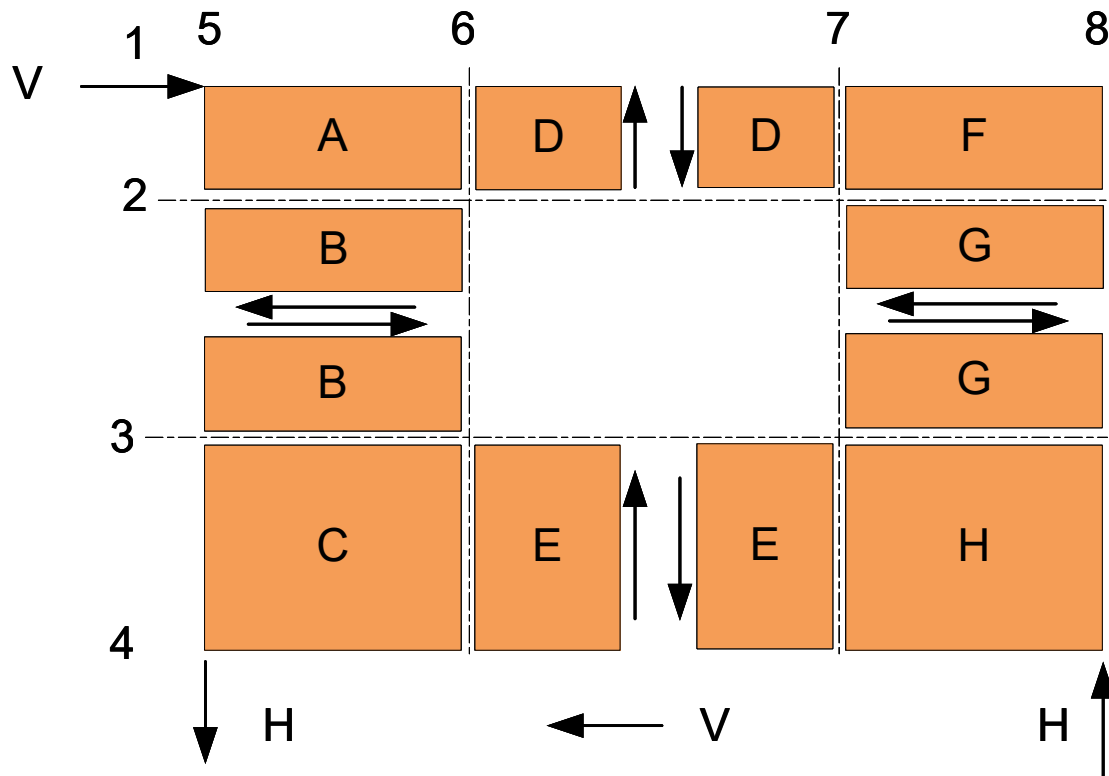
# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique

- $v_h = 2,000 / (2.3 + 4) = 317 \text{ plf}$
- $v_v = 1,553 / (2 + 2) = 388 \text{ plf}$



# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique

- $v_h = 2,000 / (2.3 + 4) = 317 \text{ plf} = (V_B = V_G)$
- $v_v = 1,553 / (2 + 2) = 388 \text{ plf} = (V_D = V_E)$

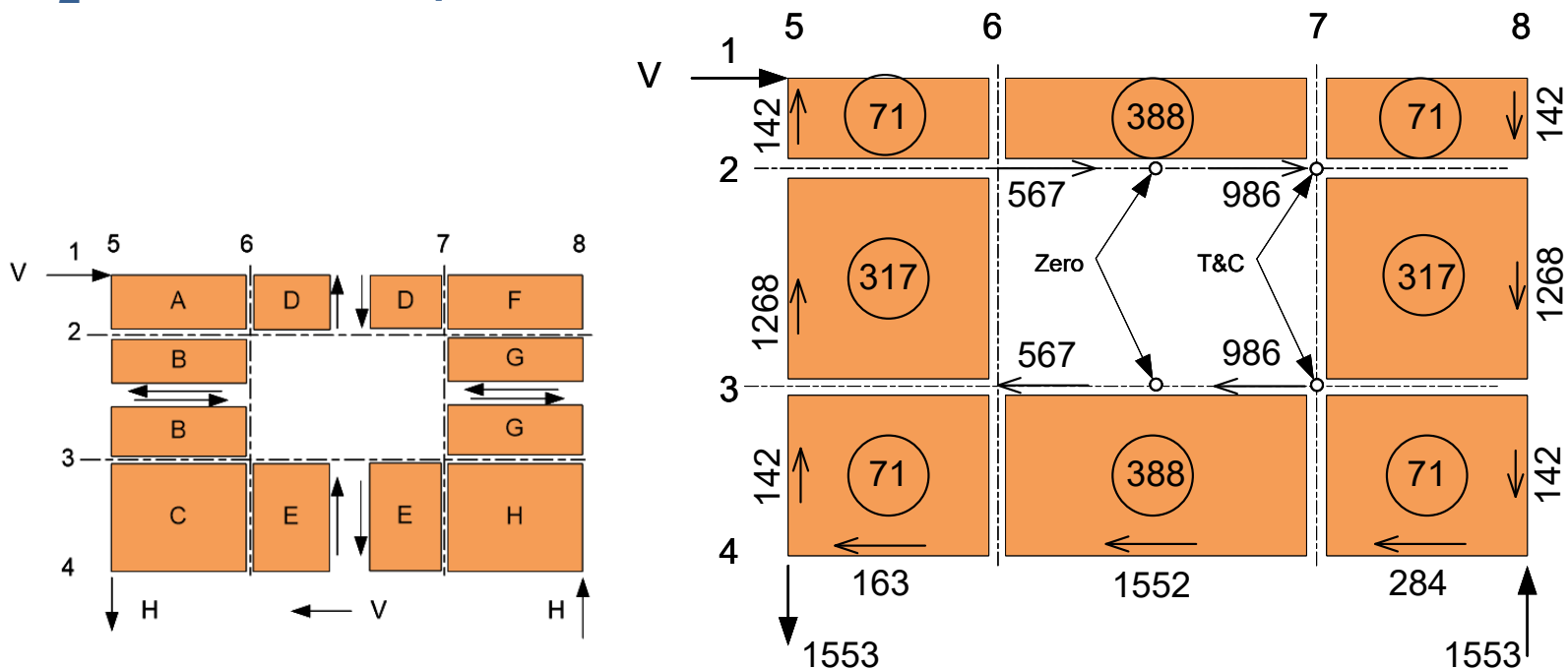


# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique

$$F = 388 * 4 = 1,552 \text{ lbf}$$

$$F_1 = 1,552 * 2.3 / (2.3 + 4) = 567 \text{ lbf}$$

$$F_2 = 1,552 * 4 / (2.3 + 4) = 986 \text{ lbf}$$



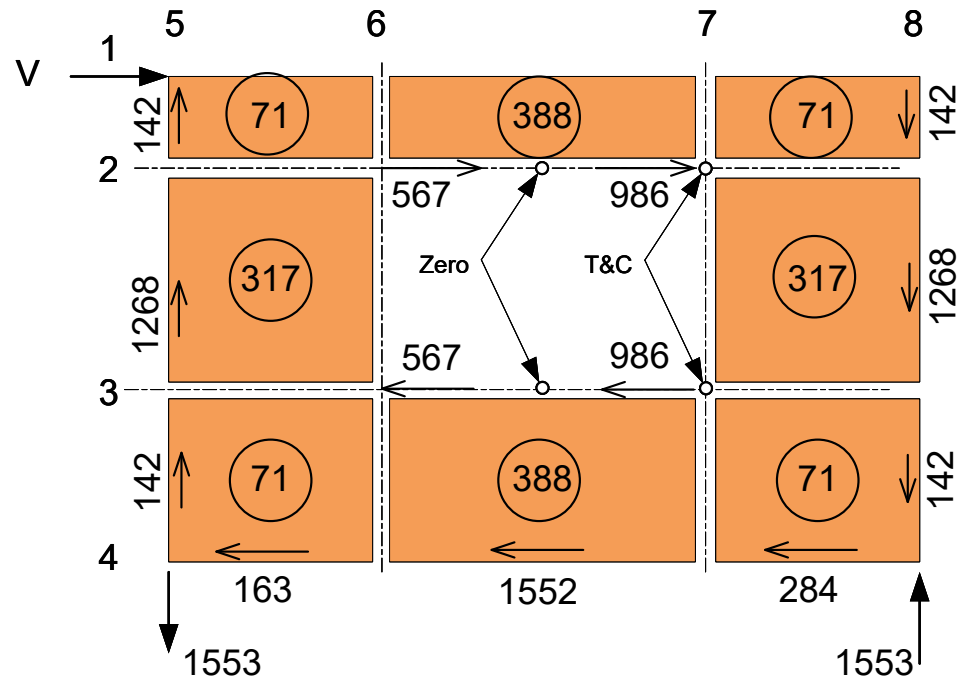
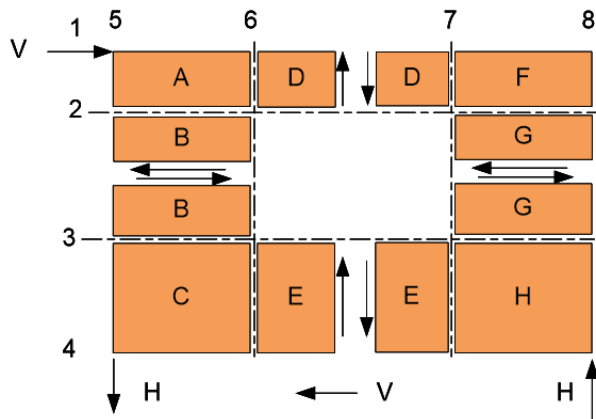
# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique

$$V_A = V_C = V_F = V_H =$$

$$567/2.3 = 246 \text{ plf}$$

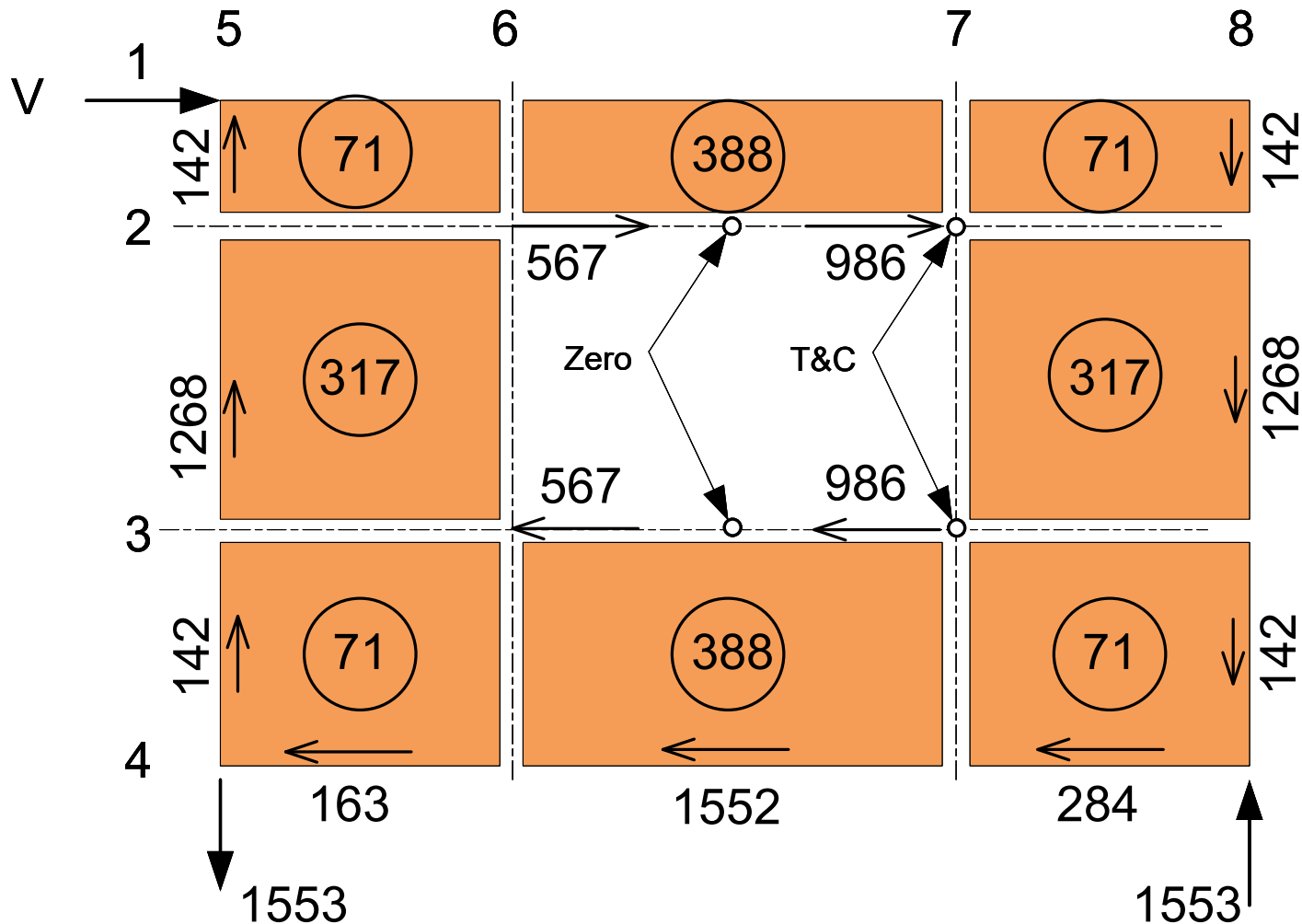
$$986/4 = 246 \text{ plf}$$

$$317 \text{ plf} - 246 \text{ plf} = 71 \text{ plf}$$





# Ex. 3 – Diekmann Technique



# Design Example Summary

## ■ Drag Strut Analogy

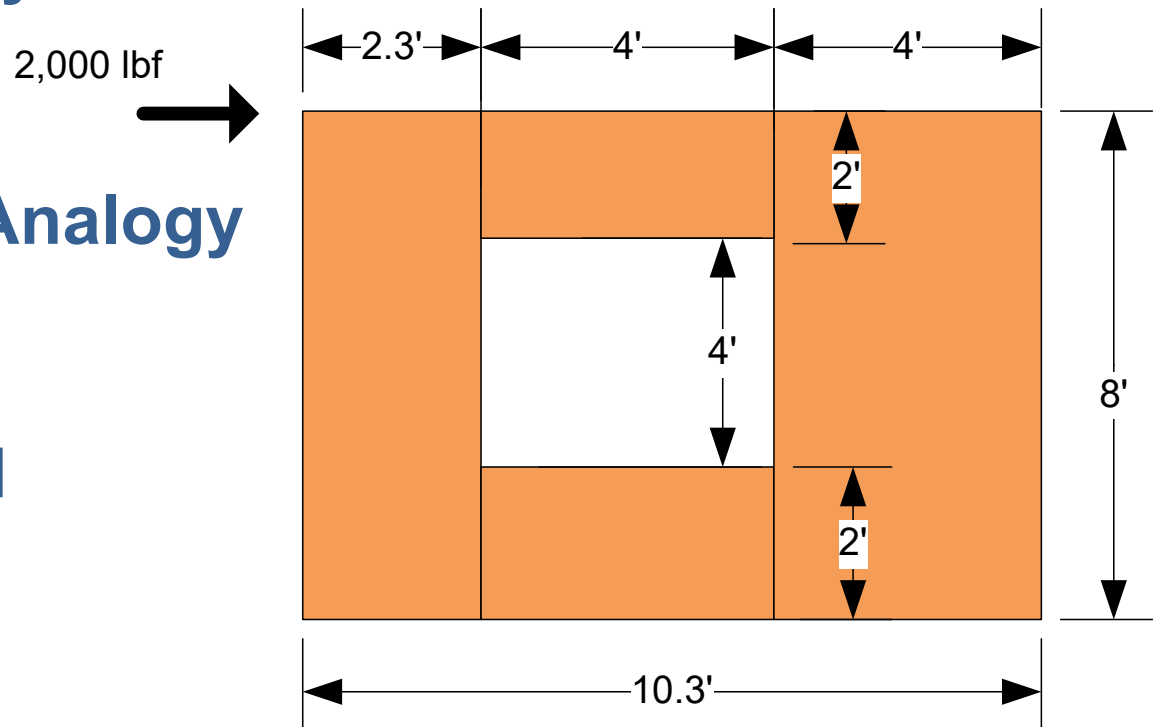
- $F1 = 284 \text{ lbf}$
- $F2 = 493 \text{ lbf}$

## ■ Cantilever Beam Analogy

- $F1 = 1,460 \text{ lbf}$
- $F2 = 2,540 \text{ lbf}$

## ■ Diemann Method

- $F1 = 567 \text{ lbf}$
- $F2 = 986 \text{ lbf}$



# References

## **Drag Strut Analogy**

- Martin, Z.A. 2005. Design of wood structural panel shear walls with openings: A comparison of methods. *Wood Design Focus* 15(1):18-20

## **Cantilever Beam Analogy**

- Martin, Z.A. (see above)

## **Diekmann Method**

- Diekmann, E. K. 2005. Discussion and Closure (Martin, above), *Wood Design Focus* 15(3): 14-15
- Breyer, D.E., K.J. Fridley, K.E. Cobeen and D. G. Pollock. 2007. Design of wood structures ASD/LRFD, 6th ed. McGraw Hill, New York.

## **Thompson Method**

- SEAOC. 2007. 2006 IBC Structural/Seismic Design Manual, Volume 2: Building Design Examples for Light-frame, Tilt-up Masonry. Structural Engineers Association of California, Sacramento, CA

# CUREE Basic Loading Protocol



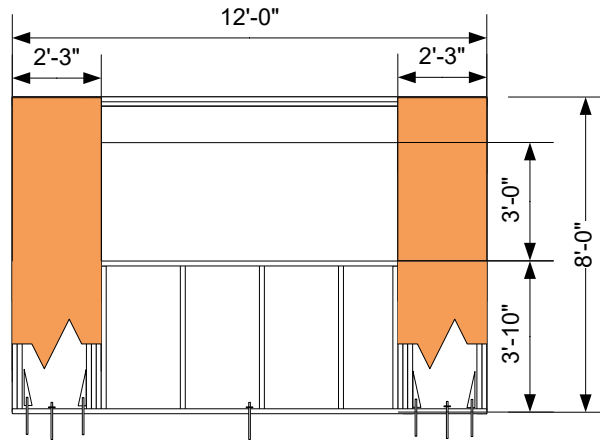
# Test Plan

- **12 wall configurations tested (with and without FTAO applied)**
- **Wall nailing: 10d commons (0.148" x 3") at 2" o.c.**
- **Sheathing: 15/32 Perf Cat oriented strand board (OSB) APA Structural I**
- **All walls were 12 feet long and 8 feet tall**
- **Cyclic loading protocol following ASTM E2126, Method C, CUREE Basic Loading Protocol**

# Test Plan

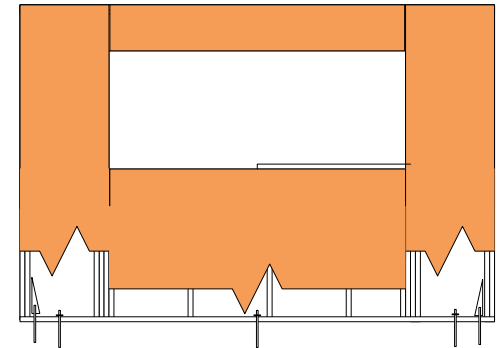
## Wall 1

Objective:  
Est. baseline case for  
3.5:1 segmented wall



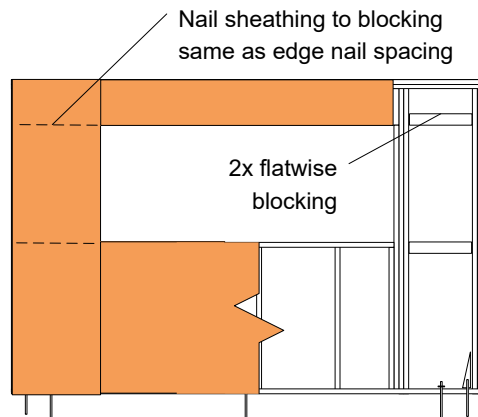
## Wall 2

Objective:  
No FTAO, compare to Wall 1.  
 $C_o = 0.93$ . Examine effect of  
sheathing above and below  
opening w/ no FTAO. Hold  
down removed.



## Wall 3

Objective:  
No FTAO, compare to  
Wall 1 and 2. Examine  
effect of compression  
blocking.

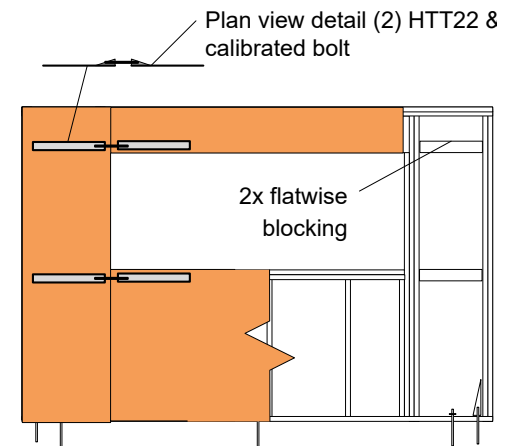


Wall is symmetric,  
sheathing on right pier  
not shown for clarity

## Wall 4

Objective:  
FTAO, compare to Wall 1.  
Examine effect of straps

Wall is symmetric,  
sheathing and force transfer  
load measurement on right  
pier not shown for clarity

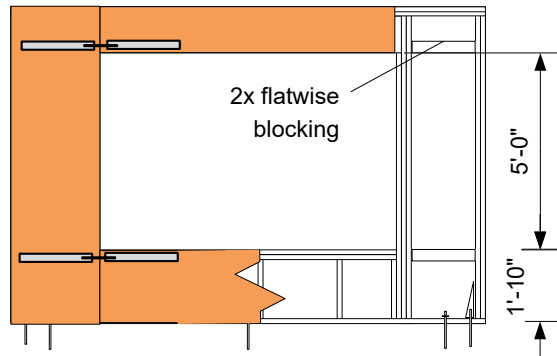


# Test Plan

## Wall 5

Objective:  
FTAO, compare to Wall 4. Examine effect of straps with larger opening

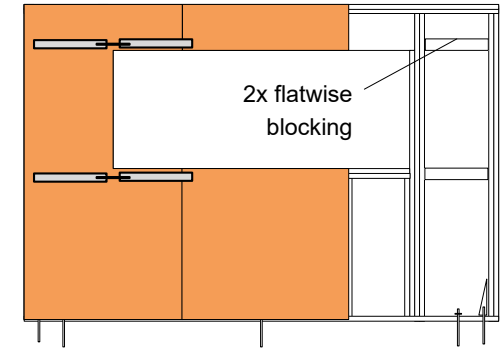
Wall is symmetric, sheathing and force transfer load measurement on right pier not shown for clarity



## Wall 6

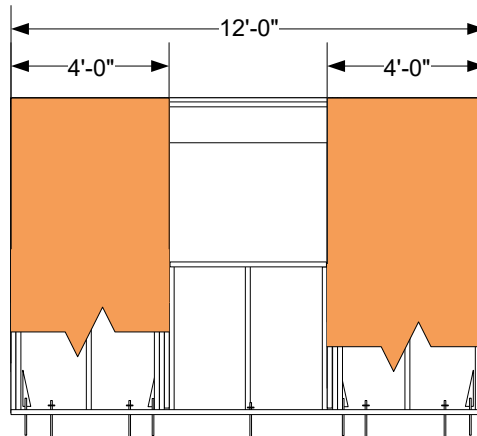
Objective:  
Compare to Wall 4. Examine effect of sheathing around opening

Wall is symmetric, sheathing and force transfer load measurement on right pier not shown for clarity



## Wall 7

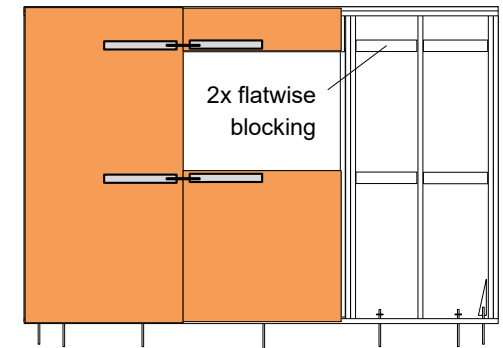
Objective:  
Est. baseline case for 2:1 segmented wall



## Wall 8

Objective:  
Compare FTAO to Wall 7

Wall is symmetric, sheathing and force transfer load measurement on right pier not shown for clarity

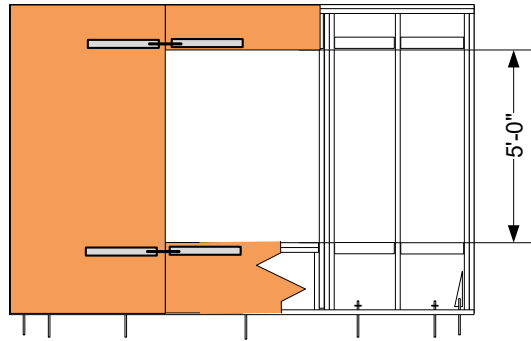


# Test Plan

## Wall 9

Objective:  
Compare FTAO to Wall 7  
and 8. Collect FTAO data  
for wall with larger  
opening

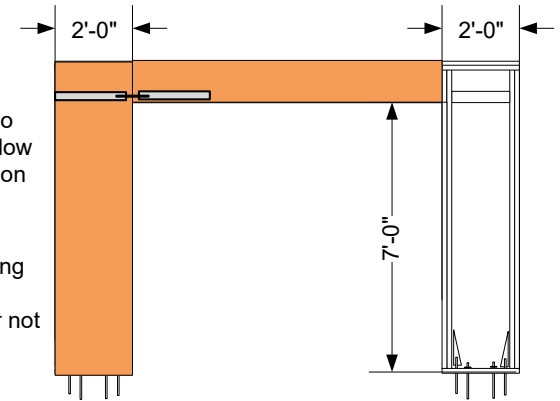
Wall is symmetric,  
sheathing and force  
transfer load  
measurement on right pier  
not shown for clarity



## Wall 10

Objective:  
FTAO for 3.5:1 Aspect ratio  
pier wall. No sheathing below  
opening. Two hold downs on  
pier (fixed case)

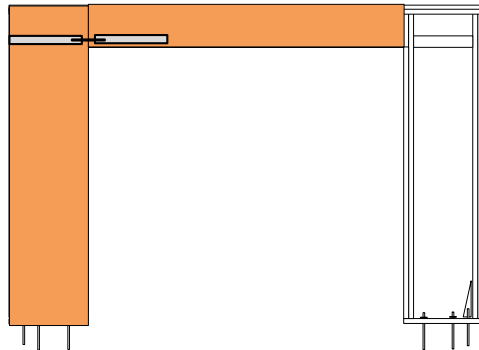
Wall is symmetric, sheathing  
and force transfer load  
measurement on right pier  
not shown for clarity



## Wall 11

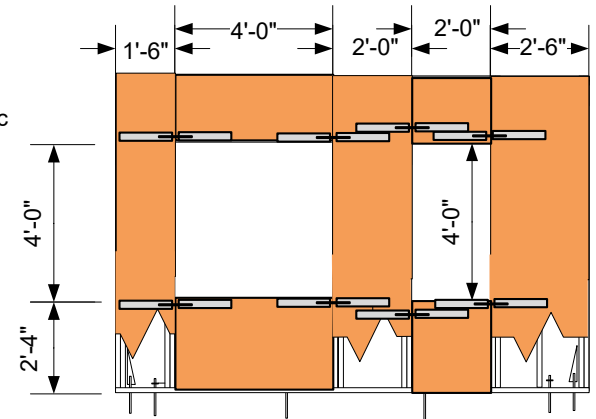
Objective:  
FTAO for 3.5:1 Aspect  
ratio pier wall. No  
sheathing below  
opening. One hold  
downs on pier (pinned  
case)

Wall is symmetric,  
sheathing and force  
transfer load  
measurement on right pier  
not shown for clarity



## Wall 12

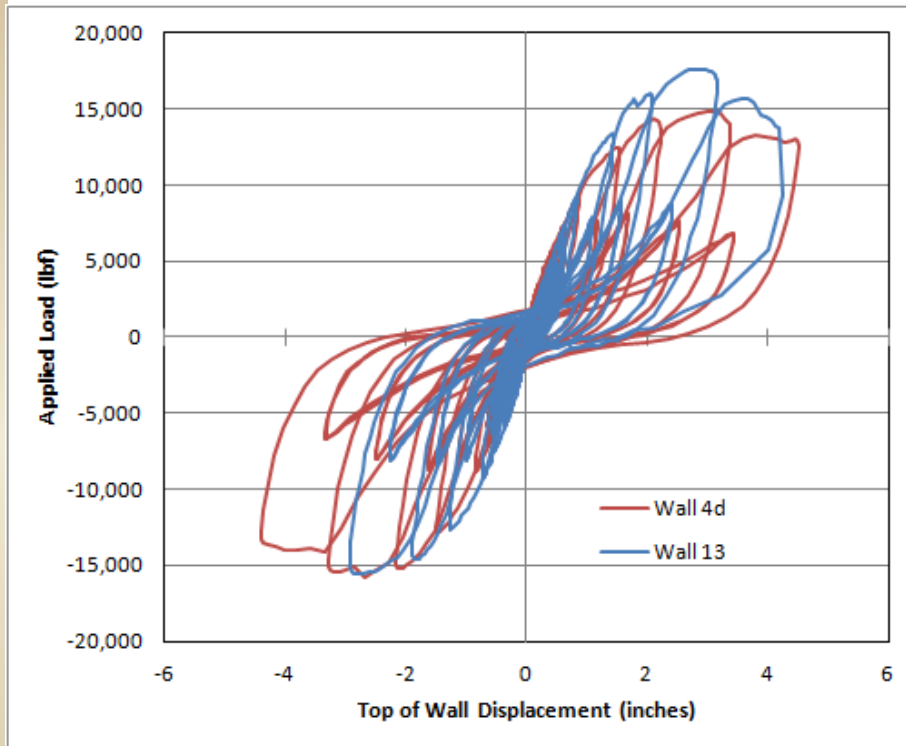
Objective:  
FTAO for asymmetric  
multiple pier wall.





# Testing Observation

## Wall 13



# Test Plan

## Information obtained

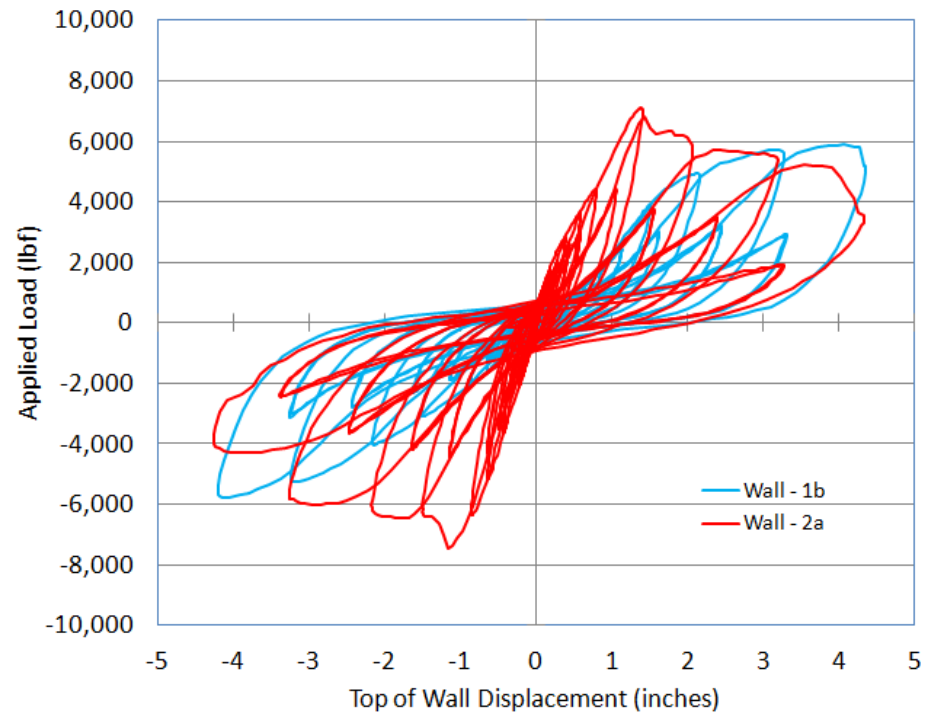
- **Cyclic hysteretic plots and various cyclic parameters of the individual walls**
- **Hold down force plots**
- **Anchor bolt forces plots**
- **Hysteric plots of the applied load versus the displacement of the walls**
- **Hysteric plots of the applied load versus strap forces**

# Measured vs Predicted Strap Forces

Wall ID	Measured Strap Forces (lbf) <sup>(1)</sup>		Error <sup>(2)</sup> For Predicted Strap Forces at ASD Capacity (%)						
			Drag Strut Technique		Cantilever Beam Technique		Diekmann Technique	Thompson Technique	
	Top	Bottom	Top	Bottom	Top	Bottom	Top/Bottom	Top	Bottom
Wall 4a	687	1,485	178%	82%	652%	183%	132%	406%	115%
Wall 4b	560	1,477	219%	83%	800%	184%	133%	499%	115%
Wall 4c <sup>(3)</sup>	668	1,316	183%	93%	670%	207%	149%	418%	129%
Wall 4d	1,006	1,665	122%	73%	445%	164%	118%	278%	102%
Wall 5b	1,883	1,809	65%	68%	327%	256%	173%	204%	160%
Wall 5c <sup>(3)</sup>	1,611	1,744	76%	70%	382%	265%	187%	238%	166%
Wall 5d	1,633	2,307	75%	53%	377%	201%	141%	235%	125%
Wall 6a	421	477	291%	256%	1063%	571%	410%	663%	357%
Wall 6b	609	614	201%	199%	735%	444%	319%	458%	277%
Wall 8a	985	1,347	118%	86%	808%	359%	138%	269%	120%
Wall 8b <sup>(4)</sup>	1,493	1,079	78%	108%	533%	449%	124%	177%	150%
Wall 9a	1,675	1,653	69%	70%	475%	383%	185%	217%	166%
Wall 9b	1,671	1,594	69%	73%	476%	397%	185%	218%	172%
Wall 10a	1,580	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	73%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	496%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>
Wall 10b	2,002	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	58%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	391%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>
Wall 11a	2,466	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	47%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	318%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>
Wall 11b	3,062	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	38%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	256%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>
Wall 12a	807	1,163	81%	94%	593%	348%	128%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>
Wall 12b	1,083	1,002	60%	109%	442%	403%	138%	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>	n.a. <sup>(5)</sup>

# Local Response

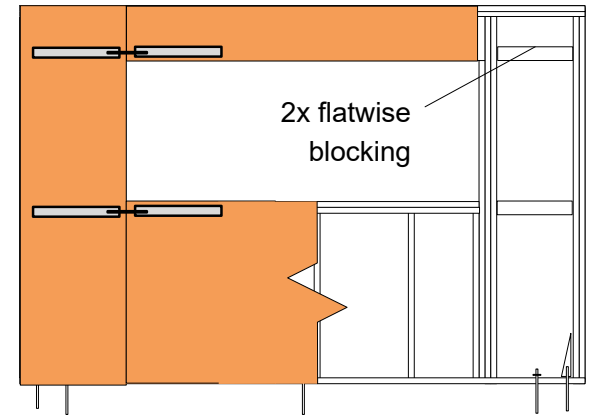
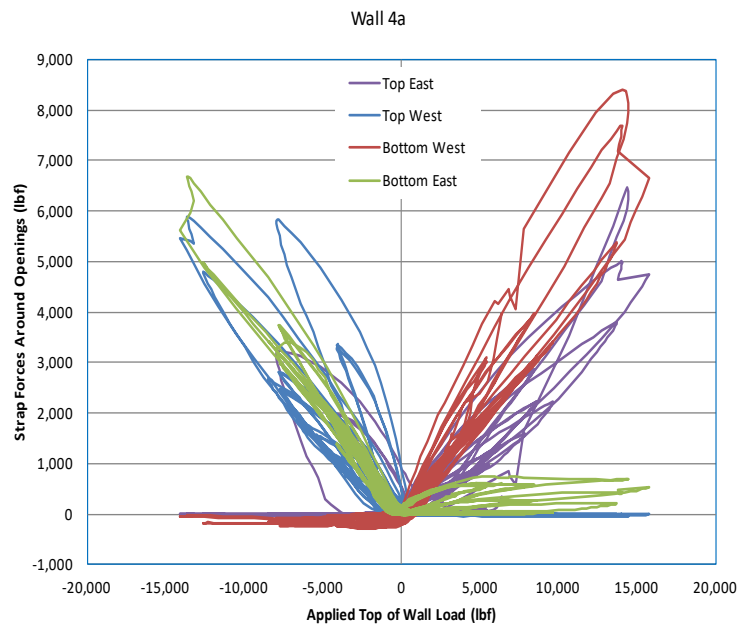
- The response curves are representative for wall 1 & 2
- Compares segmented piers vs. sheathed with no straps
- Observe the increased stiffness of perforated shear (Wall 2) vs. the segmented shear (Wall 1)



# Testing Observation

## Wall 4

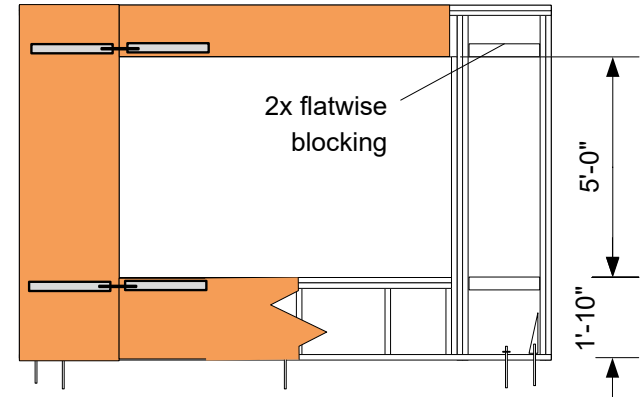
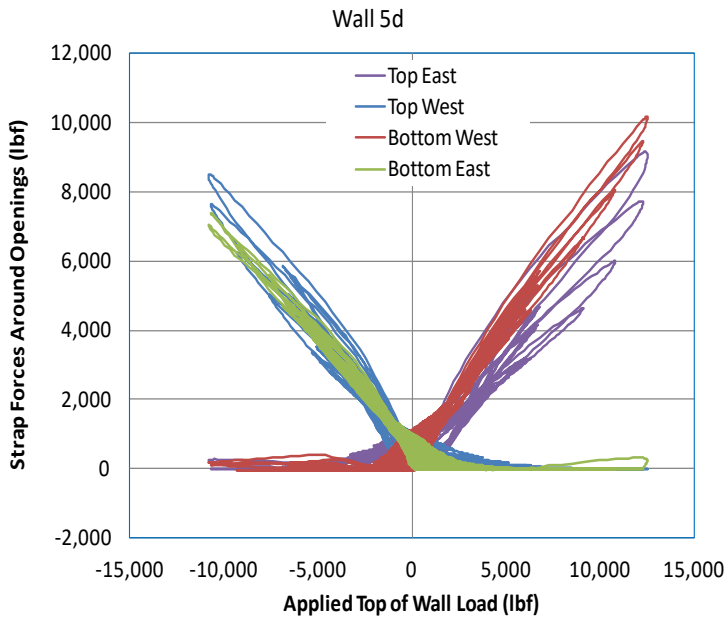
- Narrow piers
- Deep sill



# Testing Observation

## Wall 5

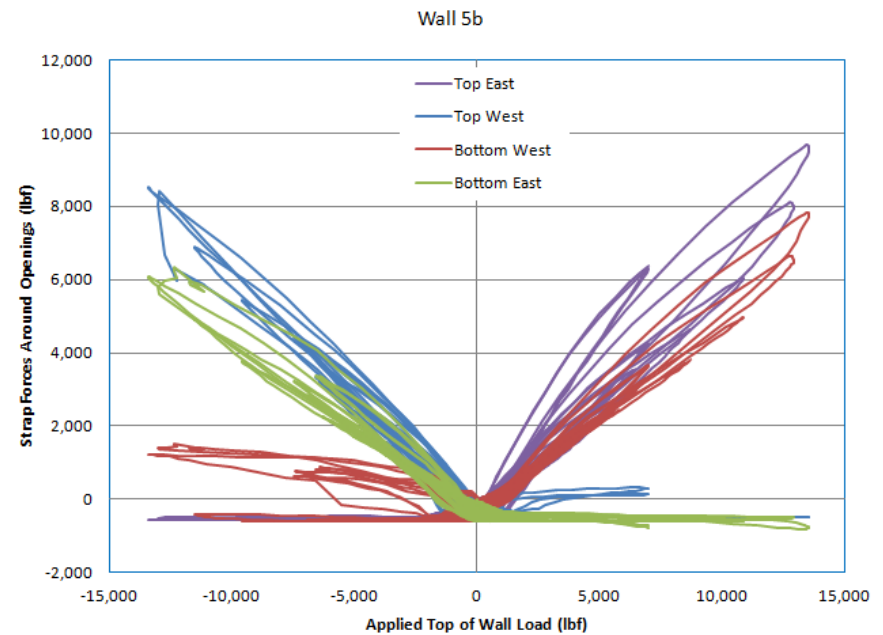
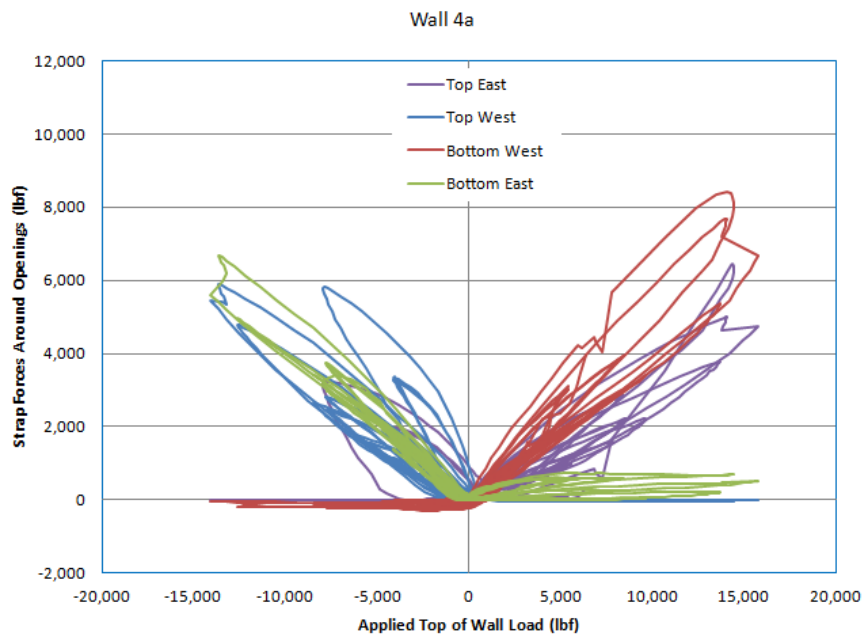
- Increased opening from Wall 4
- Shallow sill



# Local Response

## Comparison of opening size vs. strap forces

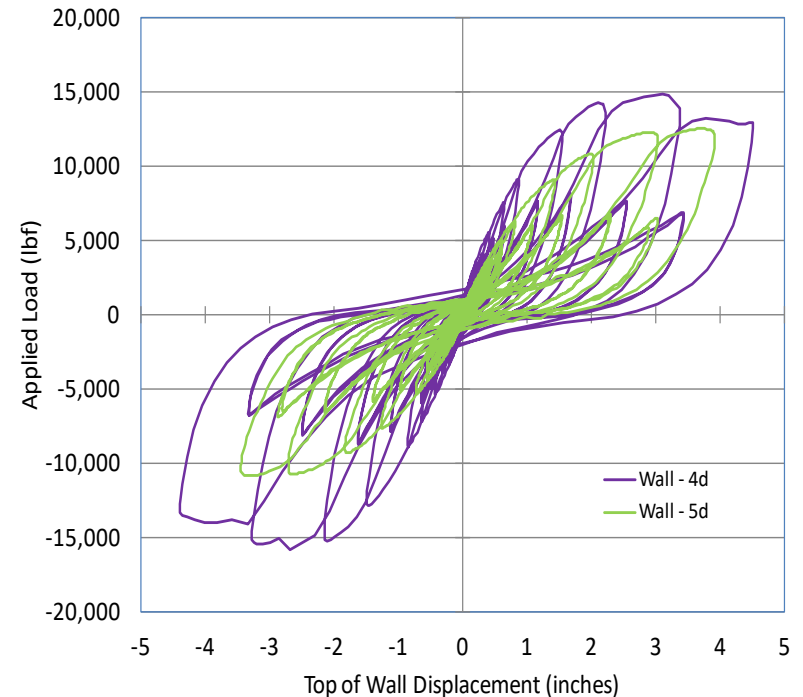
### ■ Compared Wall 4 to 5





# Global Response

- **Comparison of opening size vs. strap forces**
- **Wall 4 vs. 5 reduction in stiffness with larger opening**
- **Wall 4 & 5d demonstrated increased stiffness as well as strength over the segmented walls 1 & 2**
- **Larger openings resulting in both lower stiffness and lower strength.**
- **Relatively brittle nature of the perforated walls**
- **Shear walls resulted in sheathing tearing**

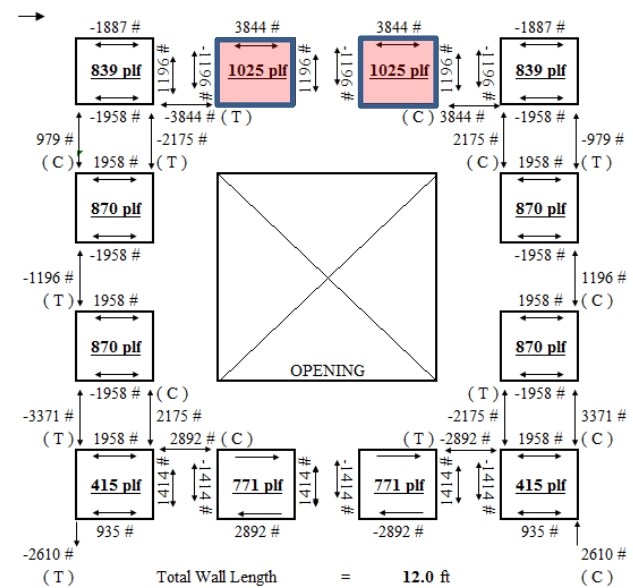
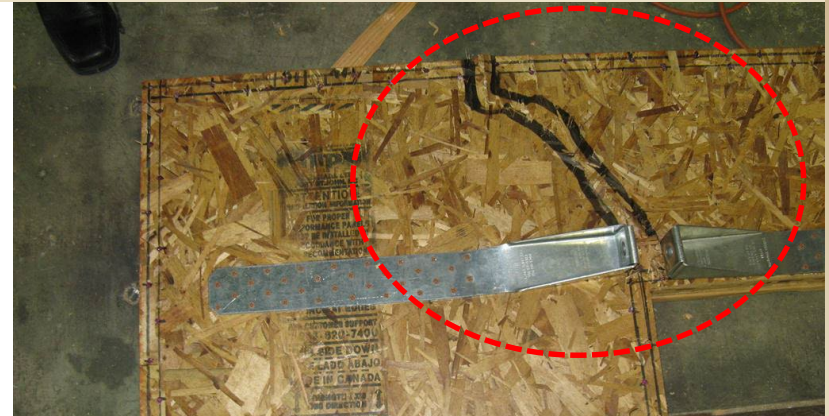




# Other Testing Observations

## Failure modes expected (Wall 5)

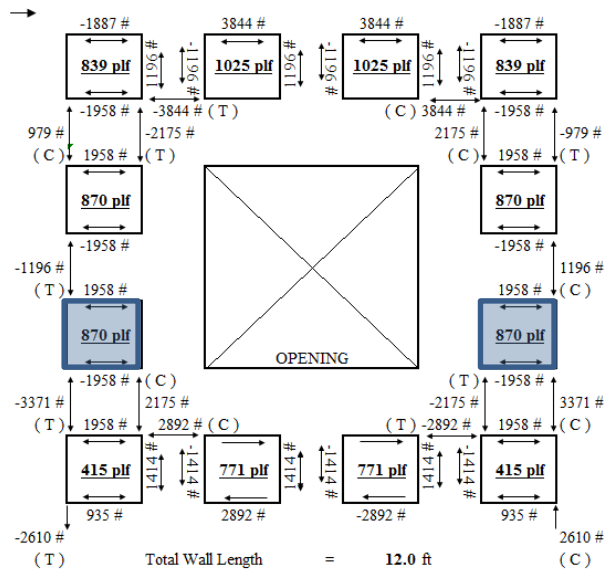
- Relatively brittle nature of the perforated walls
  - Shear walls resulted in sheathing tearing
- Concentration of forces from analysis (Thompson)
  - Drives shear type and nailing



# Other Testing Observations

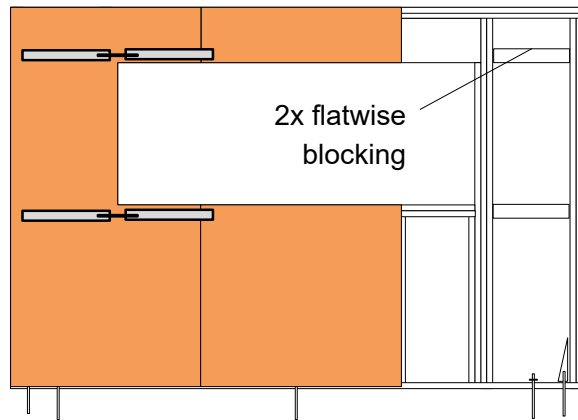
## Failure modes

- Contributions of wall segments
  - Variable stiffness
  - Banging effect



# C-shaped Panels

- **APA FTAO Test Wall 6**
- **Framing status quo**
- **Reduce/eliminate strap force**



# Advancements in FTAO

## Strapping Above and Below Openings

- **SDWPS Section 4.3.5.2 specifies collectors**
  - Full length horizontal elements. Top & Bottom Plates, drag struts, beams, etc..
  - Transfer forces from diaphragm into shear wall
- **Strapping is not a collector**
  - Can be discontinuous
  - Resists internal tension forces not shear
  - Similar to hold downs at end of wall



# Conclusions

- **12 assemblies tested, examining the three approaches to designing and detailing walls with openings**
  - **Segmented**
  - **Perforated Shear Wall**
  - **Force Transfer Around Openings**
- **Walls detailed for FTAO resulted in better global response**



# Conclusions

- **Comparison of analytical methods with tested values for walls detailed as FTAO**
  - The drag strut technique was consistently **un-conservative**
  - The cantilever beam technique was consistently **ultra-conservative**
  - Thompson provides similar results as Diekmann
  - Thompson & Diekmann techniques provided **reasonable agreement** with measured strap forces
- **Better guidance to engineers will be developed by APA for FTAO**
  - Summary of findings for validation of techniques
  - New tools for IBC wall bracing

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Enter "Force Transfer" or "M410"

149 pages, 28.5 MB



### FEATURED PUBLICATION

#### APA Engineered Wood Construction Guide

E30

Comprehensive guide to engineered wood construction systems for both residential and commercial/industrial buildings. Includes information on plywood and oriented strand board (wood structural panels), glulam, I-joists, structural composite lumber, typical specifications, and design recommendations for floor, wall, and roof systems, diaphragms, shear walls, fire-rated systems, and methods of finishing. *Revised July 2016.*



### FEATURED PUBLICATION

#### Guide to the 2015 IRC Wood Wall Bracing Provisions

Provides an explanation of the lateral bracing provisions of the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC). Available from the ICC at [Guide to the 2015 IRC Wood Wall Bracing Provisions](#).



### FEATURED PUBLICATION

#### Advanced Framing Construction Guide

M400

This guide details several advanced framing techniques. For further details, also see *APA Technical Topics: Wind Resistance of Wood Structural Panel Sheathed Walls, Form TT-110*. *Revised April 2016.*



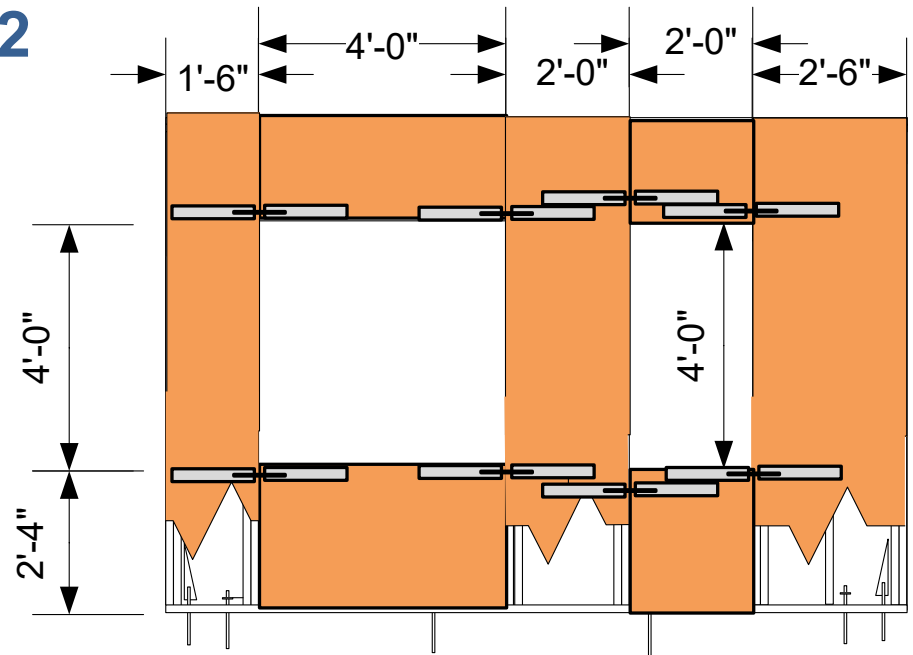
### 2018 Structural Panel & Engineered Wood Yearbook

MKO-E184

Chronicles historical demand and production. [View the table of contents](#). To download after checkout, choose "Click here for order details," then scroll down and click "Download" on the "APA Store | Order Details" tab to access the

# Multiple Openings

- **APA FTAO Testing Wall 12**
  - Multiple openings
  - Asymmetric pier widths
- **Diekmann Rational Analysis**





# Advancements in FTAO

- SEAOC Convention 2015 Proceedings
- Basis of APA Technical Note Form T555

2015 SEAOC CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS



## Advancements in Force Transfer Around Openings for Wood Framed Shear Walls

*Karyn Beebe, P.E., LEED AP BD+C*  
APA  
San Diego, CA

*Tom Skaggs, P.E., Ph.D.*  
APA  
Tacoma, WA

### Abstract

A joint research project of *APA – The Engineered Wood Association*, University of British Columbia (UBC), and USDA Forest Products Laboratory was initiated in 2009 to examine the variations of walls with code-allowable openings. This study examines the internal forces generated during these tests and evaluates the effects of size of openings, size of full-height piers, and different analysis techniques, including the segmented method, the perforated

### Introduction

Force transfer around openings (FTAO) is a popular method of shear wall analysis for wood-framed shear walls. However, the analysis method varies from engineer to engineer, published design examples typically assume the wall is symmetric around a single opening, and until recently, this design method has not been tested.

# Diekmann Technique: Conceptual Keys

## The method assumes the following:

- The unit shear above and below the openings is equivalent.
- The corner forces are based on the shear above and below the openings and only the piers adjacent to that unique opening.
- The tributary length of the opening is the basis for calculating the shear to each pier. This tributary length is the ratio of the length of the pier multiplied by the length of the opening it is adjacent to, then divided by the sum of the length of the pier and the length of the pier on the other side of the opening.
  - For example,  $T1 = (L1 * Lo1) / (L1 + L2)$

# Diekmann Technique: Conceptual Keys

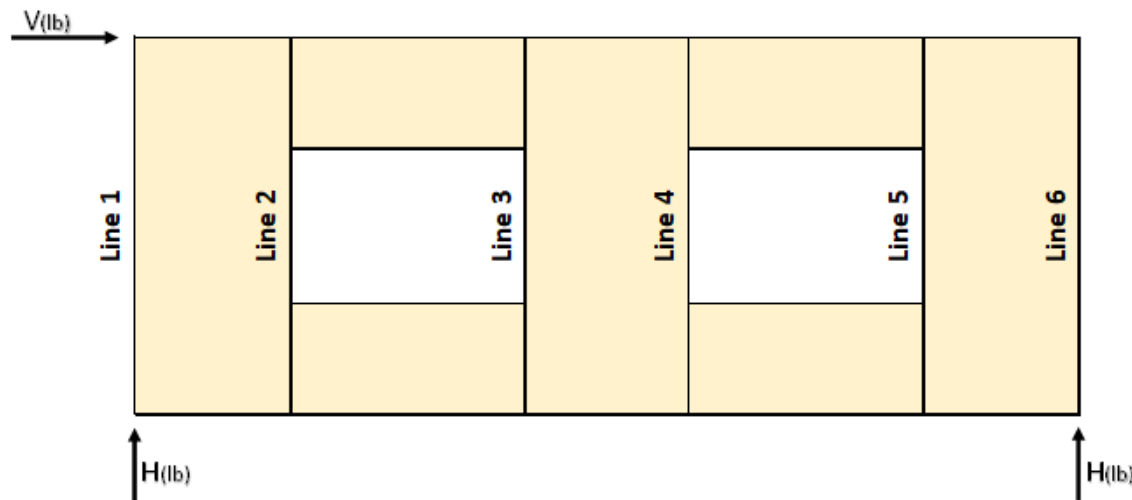
## The method assumes the following:

- The shear of each pier is the total shear divided by the L of the wall, multiplied by the sum of the length of the pier and its tributary length, divided by the length of the pier:
  - $(V/L)(L_1+T_1)/L_1$
- The unit shear of the corner zones is equal to subtracting the corner forces from the panel resistance, R. R is equal to the shear of the pier multiplied by the pier length:
  - $V_{a1} = (v_1L_1 - F_1)/L_1$

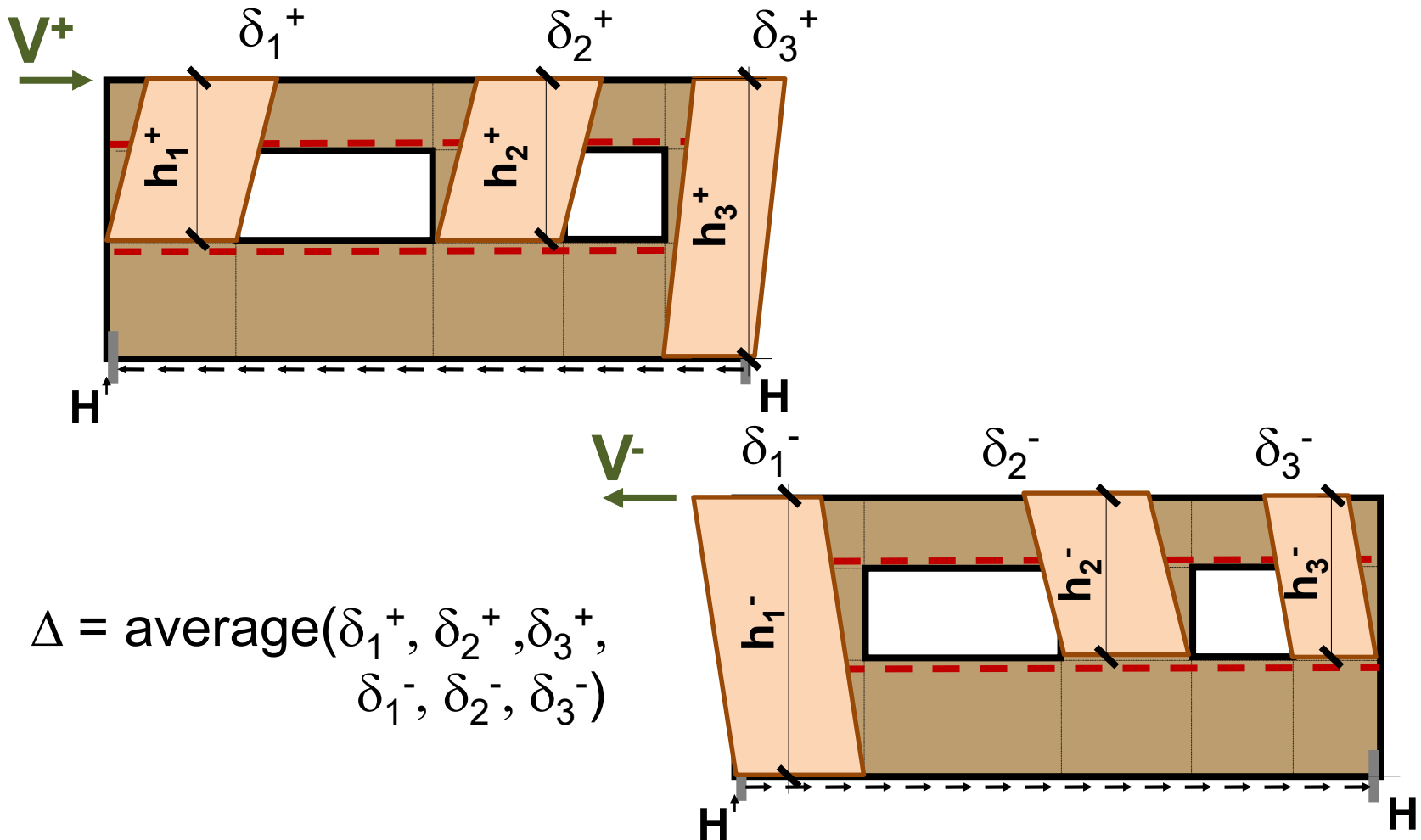
# Diekmann Technique: Conceptual Keys

## The method assumes the following:

- Once the entire segment shears have been calculated, then the design is checked by summing the shears vertically along each line. The first and last line equal the hold-down force, and the rest should sum to zero.

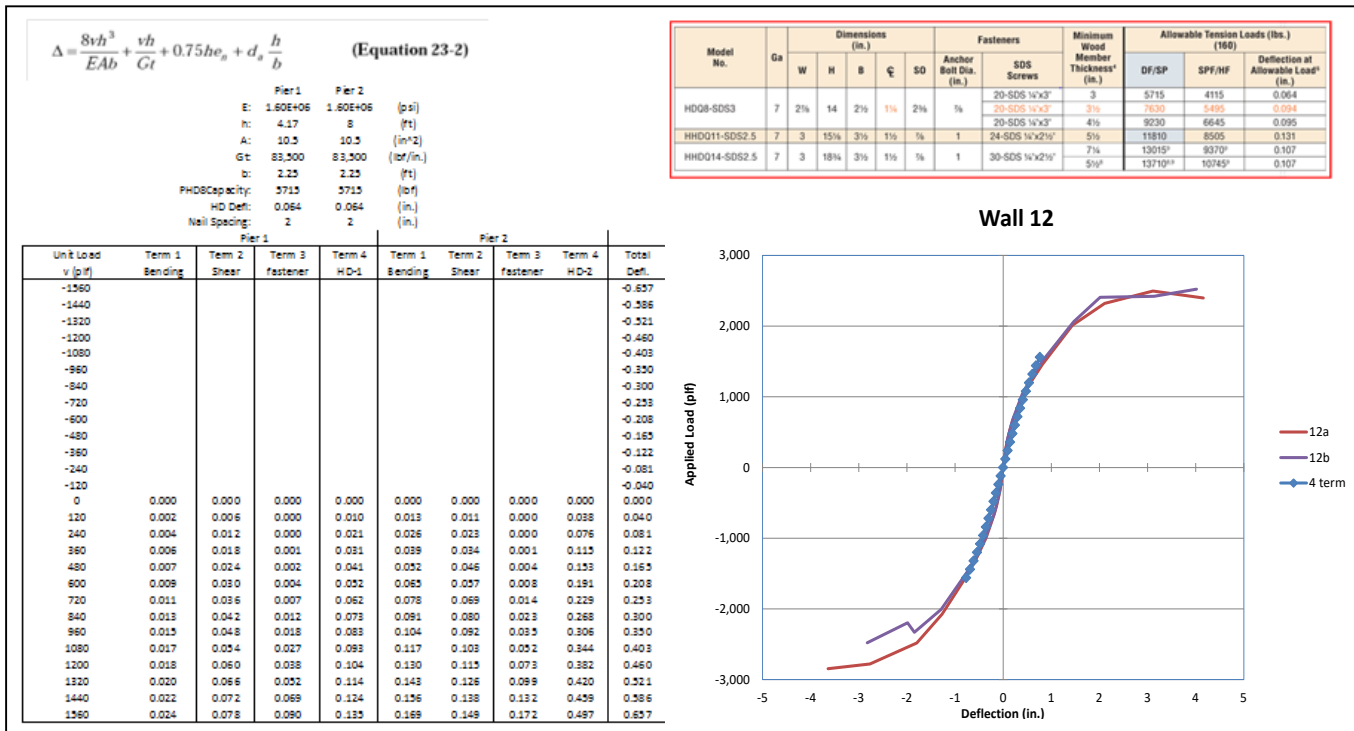


# Deflection Calculations - Concept



# Deflection Calculations

- Wall drift estimation when using FTAO
- Historical 4-term deflection equation
  - Average deflection, varying h



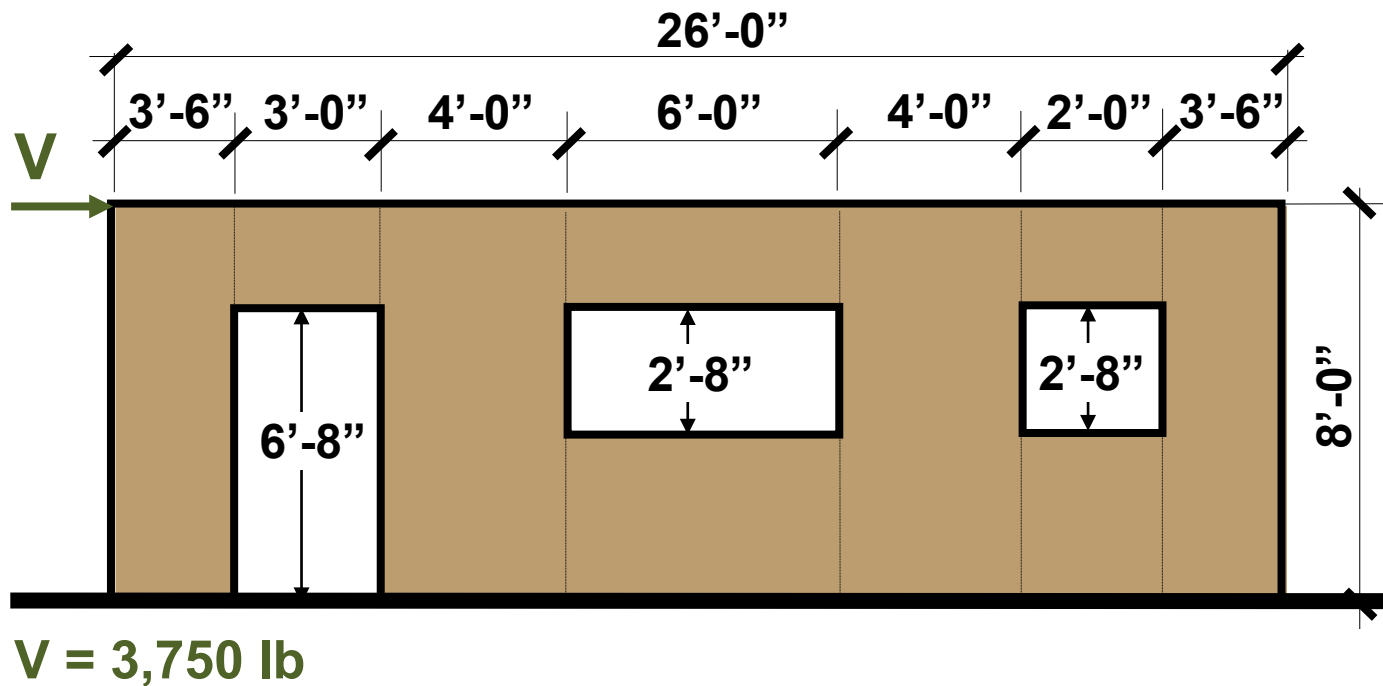
# Shear Wall Design Examples

- ✓ **Segmented Shear Wall Approach**
- **Force Transfer Around Opening Approach**



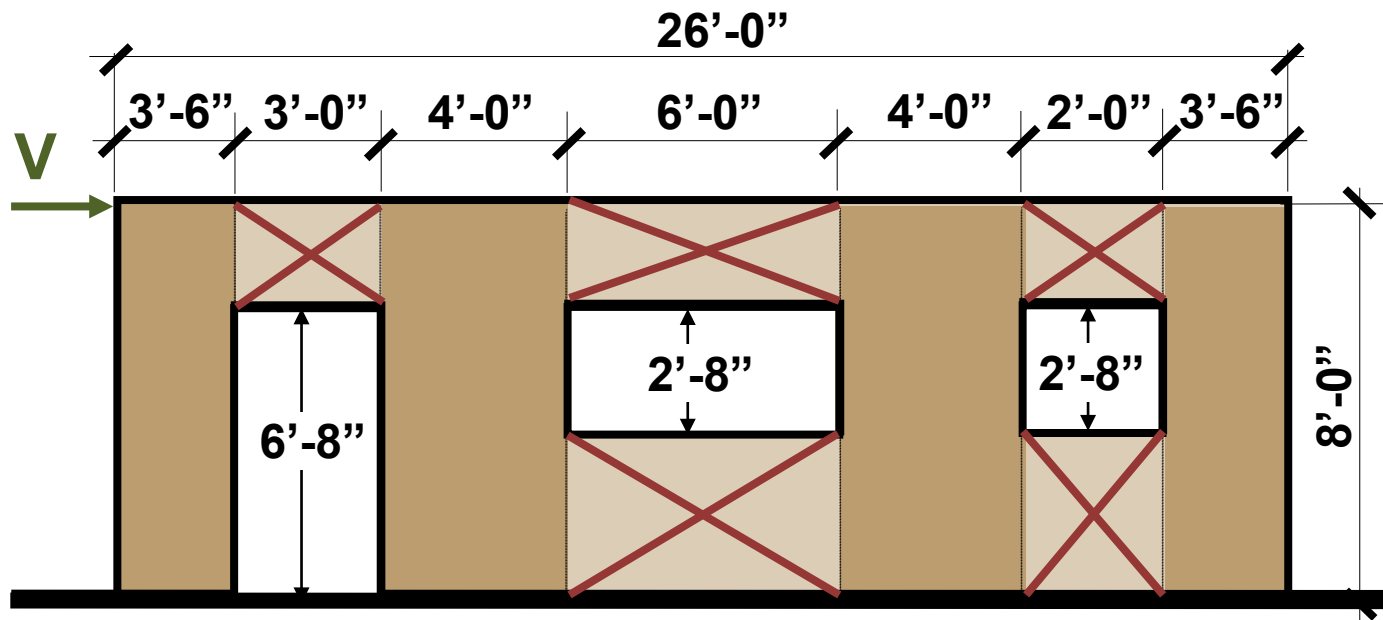
# Shear Wall Design Examples

## Standard Example Wall with 3 openings.



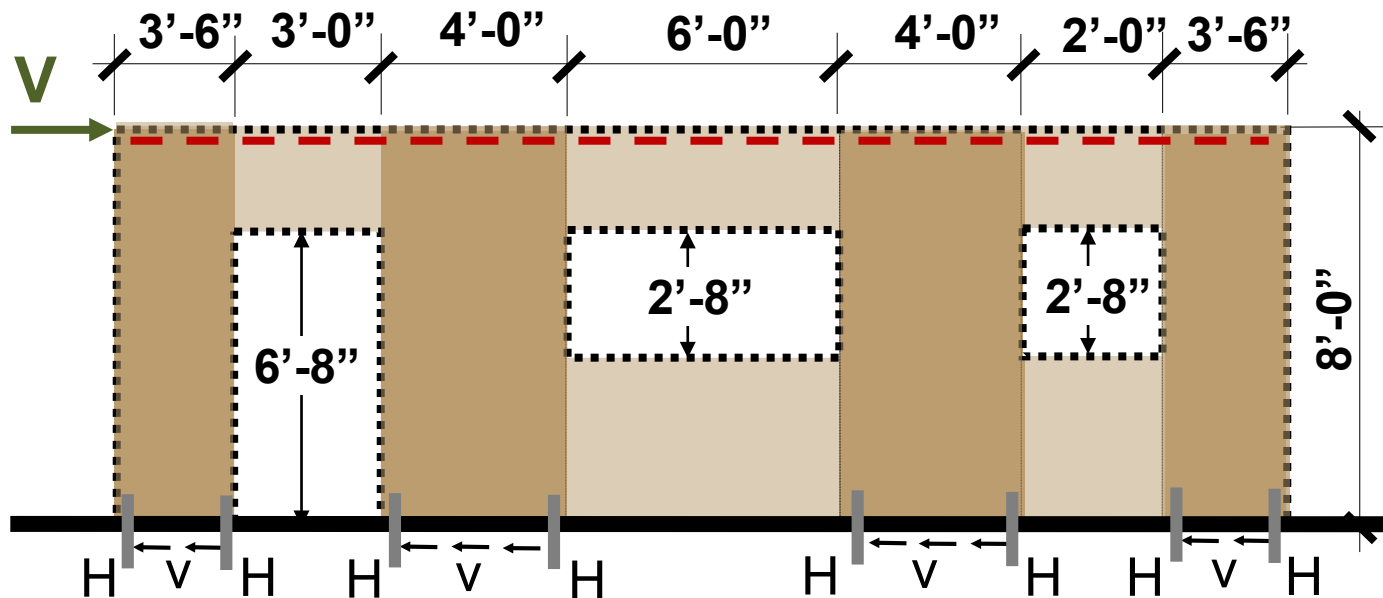


# Segmented Approach



**Does not consider contribution of sheathing  
above and below openings**

# Segmented Approach



$V = 3,750$  lbs

**Code Limitation**

Height/width Ratio = 8:3.5

$$2w/h = (2)(3.5)/8 = 0.875$$

# Segmented Approach

## 1. Unit Shear

$$V = V/\Sigma L = 3,750/15 = 250 \text{ lbs/ft}$$

## 2. Allowable Shear 3'-6" walls

$$v \text{ allowable} = 380 (0.875) = 332 \text{ lbs/ft} > 250 \text{ lbs/ft}$$

**15/32" Rated Sheathing 8d @ 4" o.c. at 3.5' walls**

## 3. Allowable Shear 4' walls (2:1 h:w)

$$v \text{ allowable} = 260 \text{ lb/ft} > 250 \text{ lbs/ft}$$

**15/32" Rated Sheathing 8d @ 6" o.c. @ 4' walls**

## 4. Hold-down forces

$$H = v h = 250 \times 8 = 2,000 \text{ lbs}$$

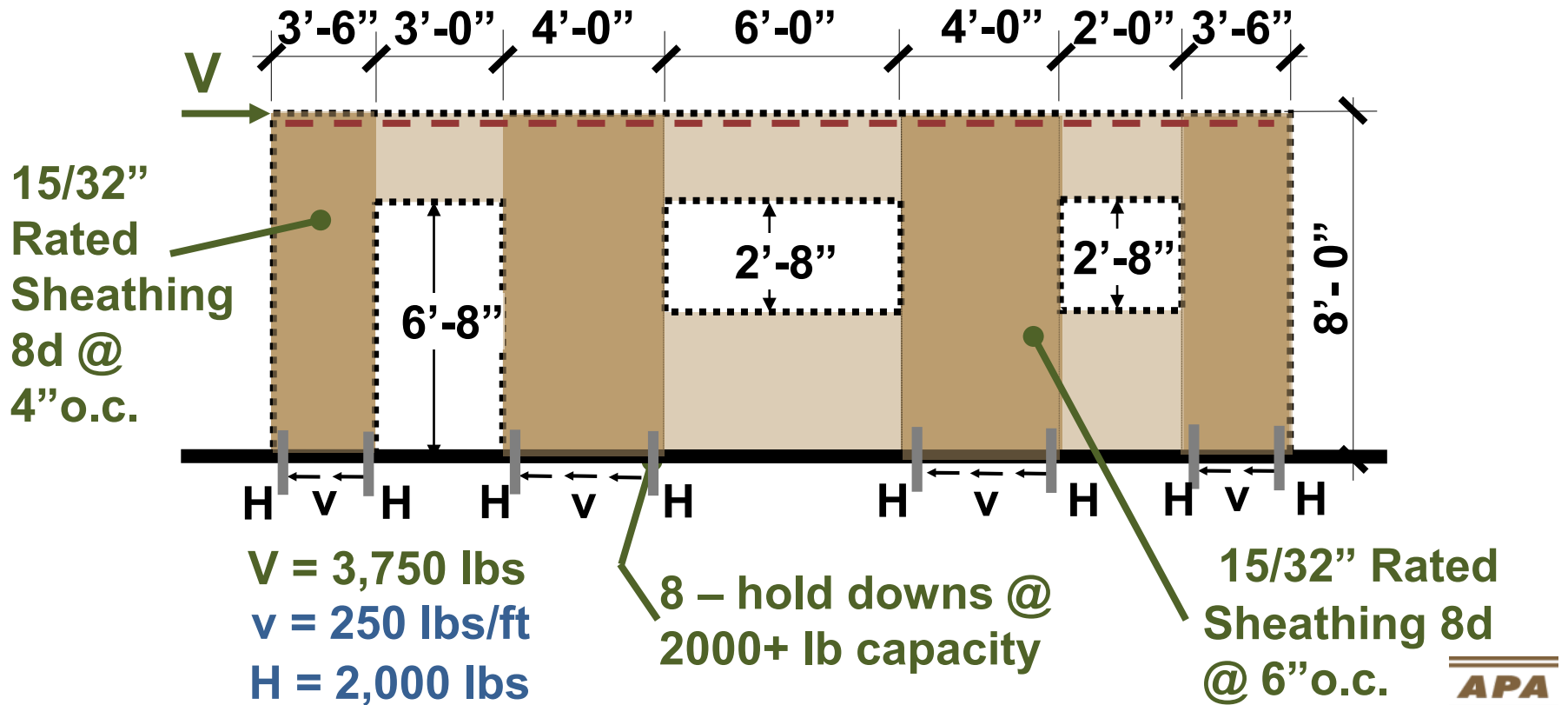
**8 – hold downs @ 2000+ lb capacity**

Note: For simplicity Dead Load contributions and various footnote adjustments have been omitted



# Segmented Approach

## Summary



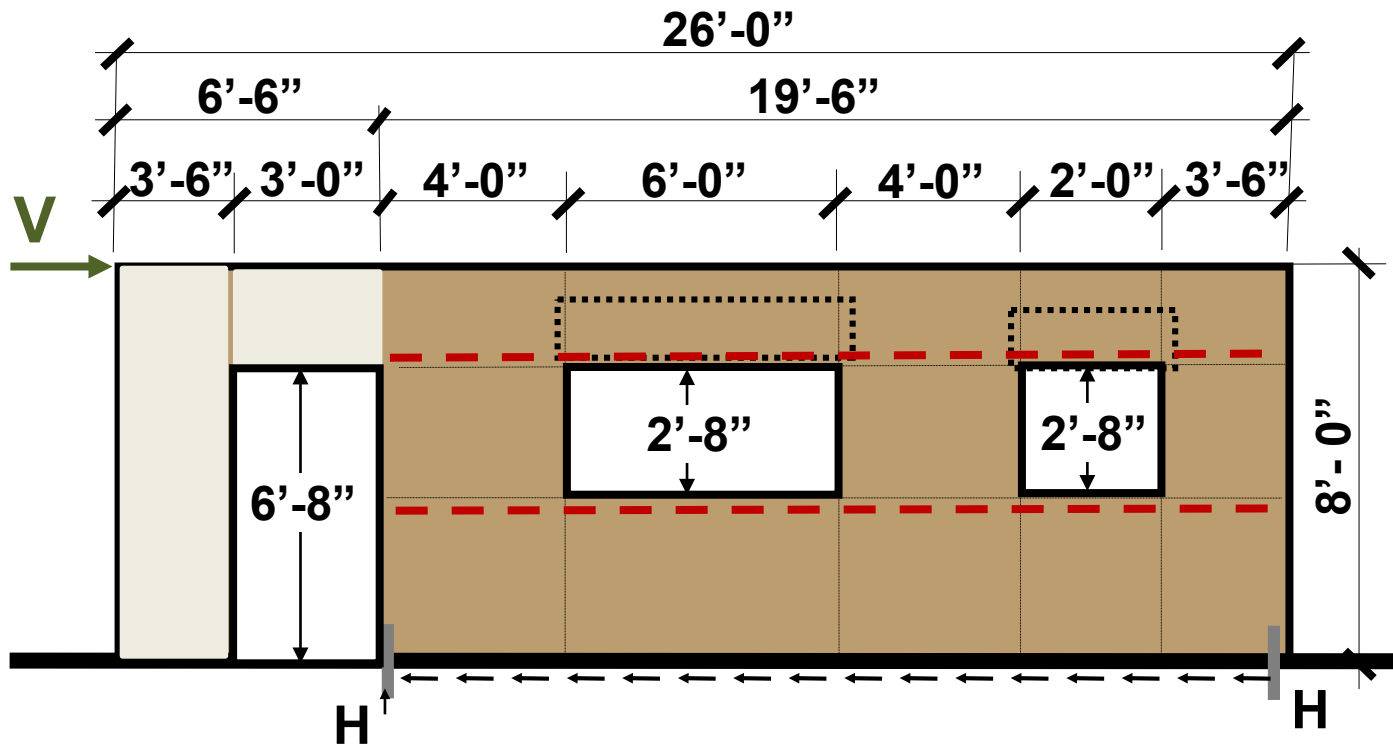
# Shear Wall Design Examples

Segmented Shear Wall Approach

Force Transfer Around Opening Approach



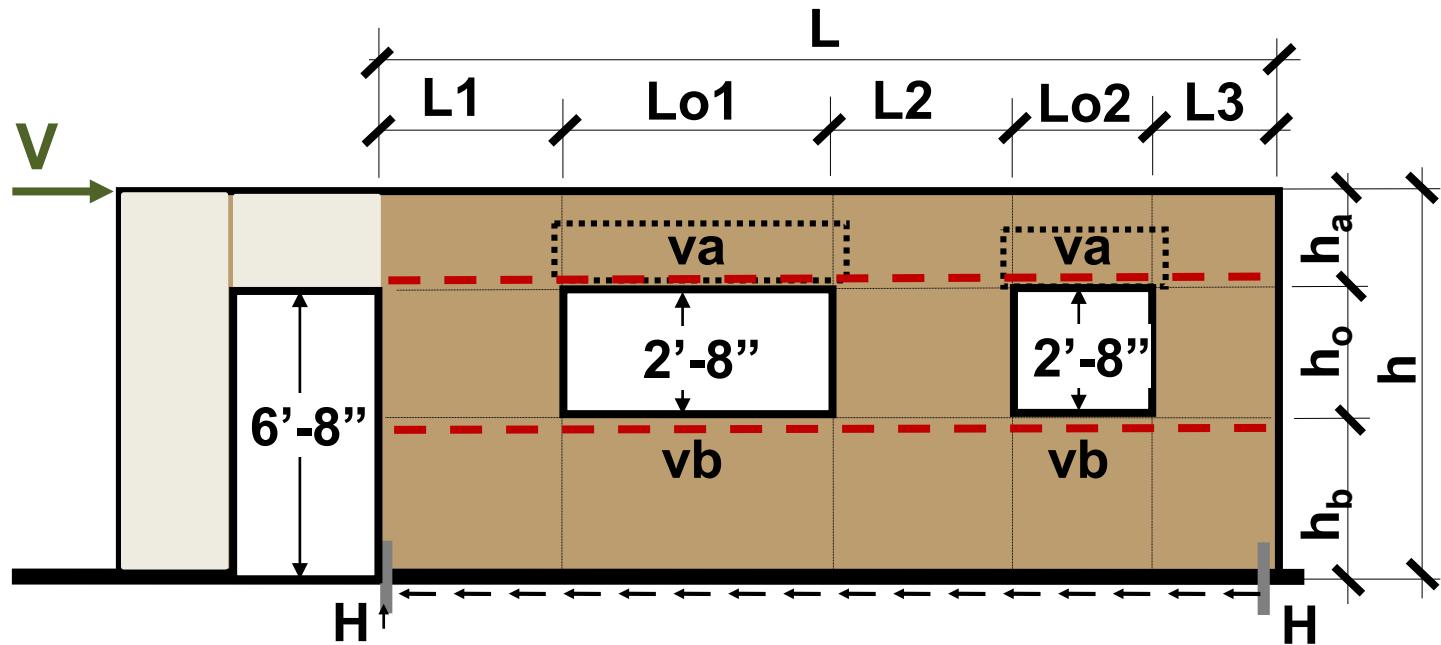
# FTAO Approach



$V = 3,750 \text{ lbs}$

Height/width Ratio =  $2'-8'' / 3'-6''$

# FTAO Approach



1. Calculate the hold-down forces:

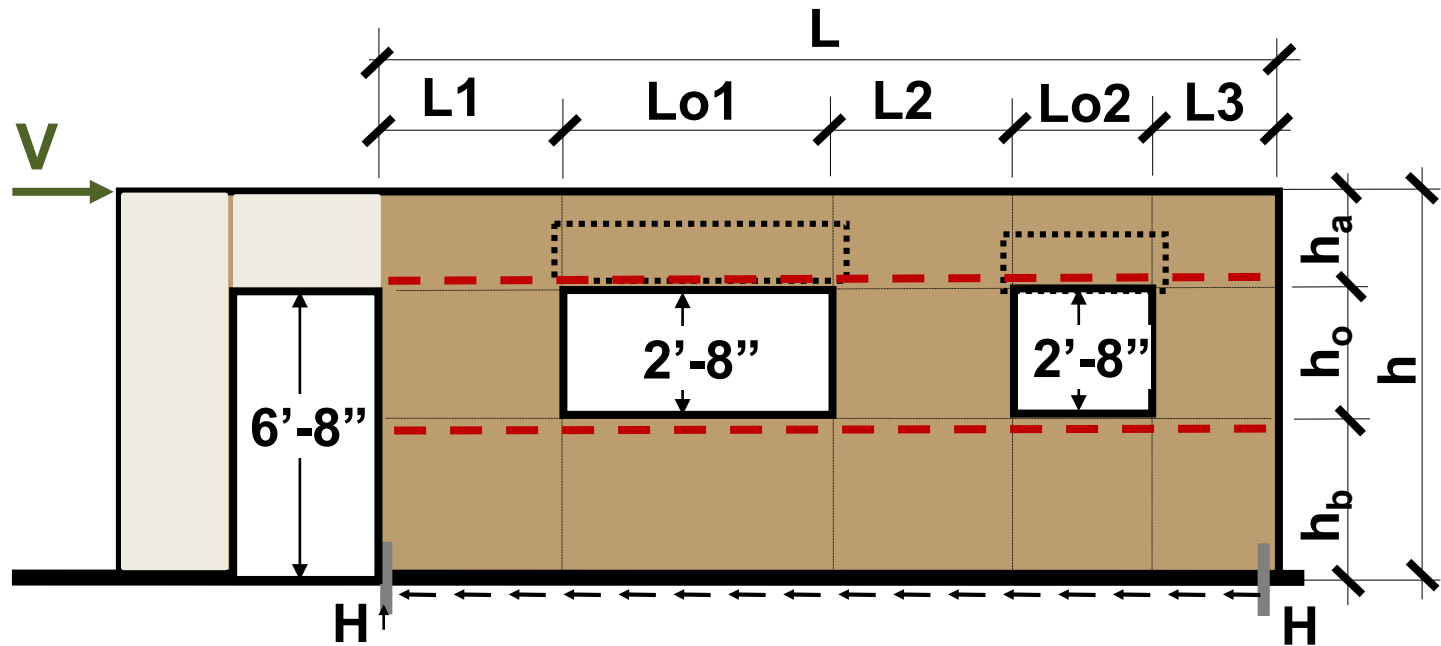
$$H = Vh/L = (3750 \times 8')/19.5' = 1538\text{lbs}$$

2. Solve for the unit shear above and below the openings:

$$v_a = v_b = H/(h_a+h_b) = 1538/(1.33'+4') = 289 \text{ plf}$$

**CK: The unit shear above and below the openings is equivalent.**

# FTAO Approach



### 3. Find the total boundary force above and below the openings

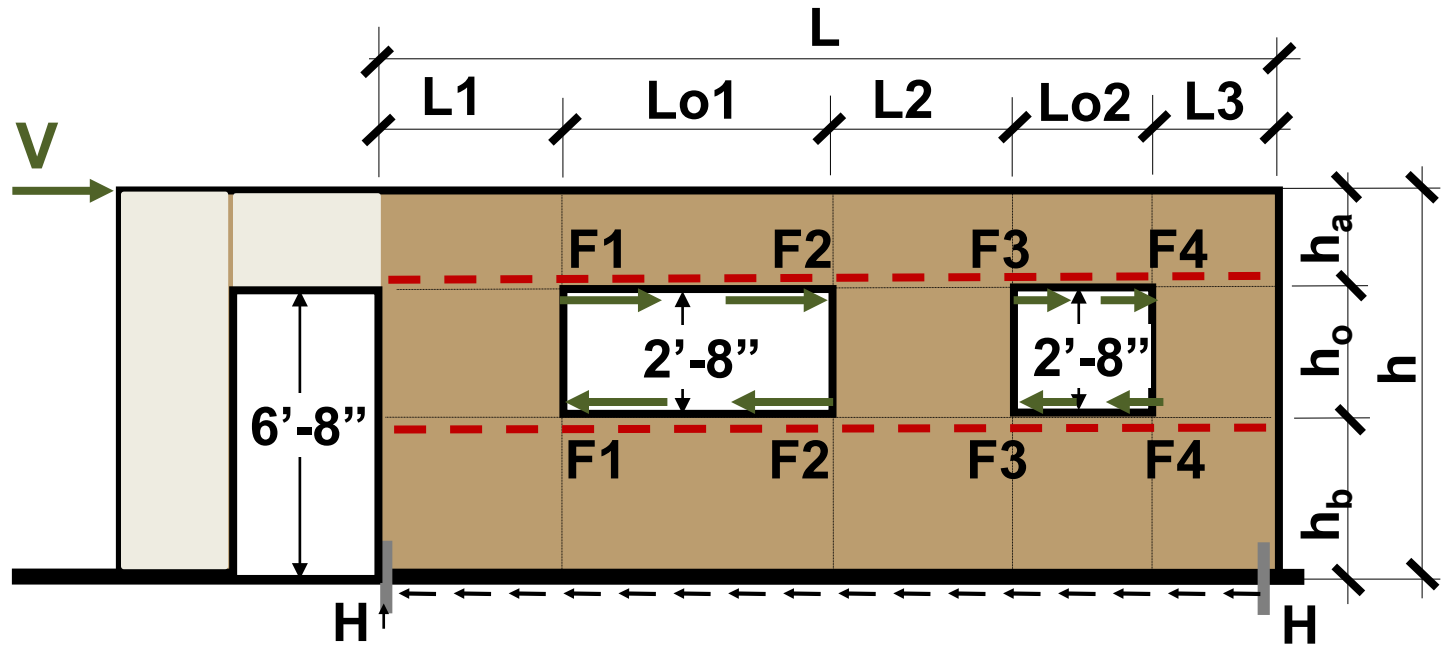
First opening:  $O1 = v_a \times (Lo1) = 289 \text{ plf} \times 6' = 1734 \text{ lbs}$

Second opening:  $O2 = v_a \times (Lo2) = 289 \text{ plf} \times 2' = 578 \text{ lbs}$

*CK: The corner forces are based on the shear above and below the openings and only the piers adjacent to that unique opening.*



# FTAO Approach



#### 4. Calculate the corner forces:

$$F1 = O1(L1)/(L1+L2) = 866\#$$

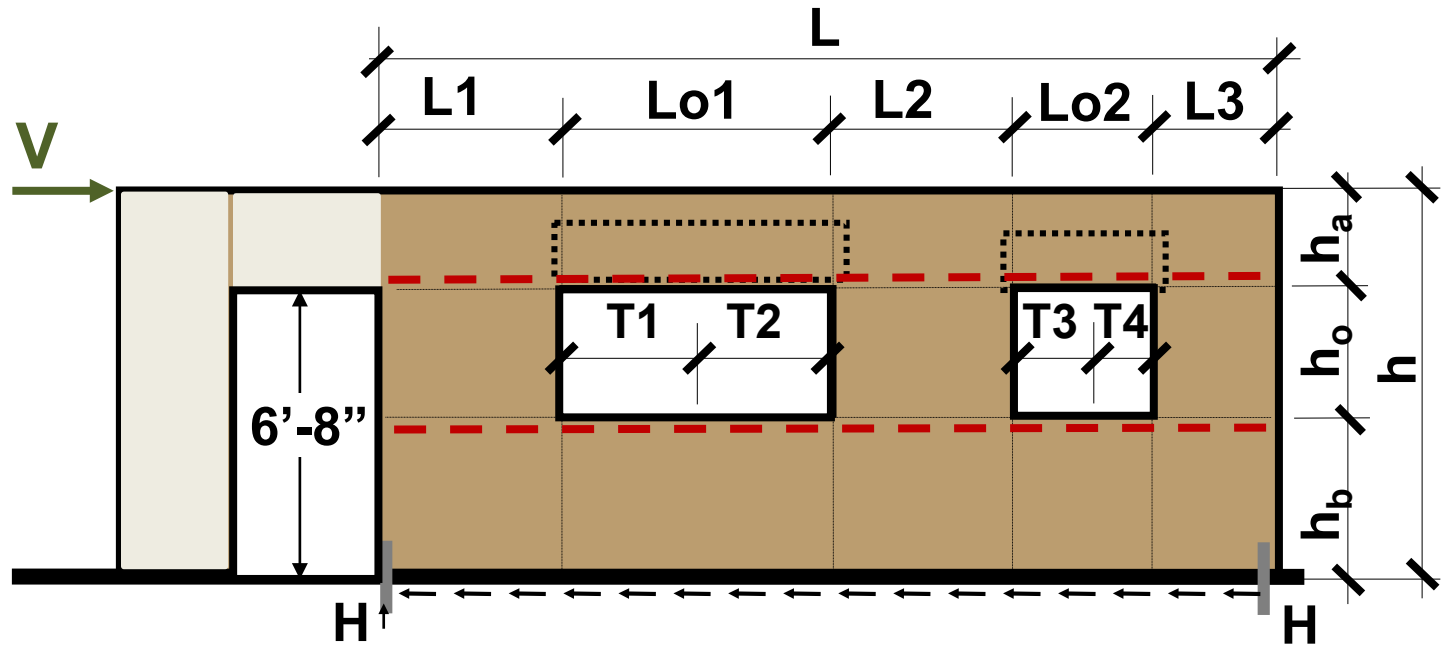
$$F2 = O1(L2)/(L1+L2) = 866\#$$

$$F3 = O2(L2)/(L2+L3) = 308\#$$

$$F4 = O2(L3)/(L2+L3) = 269\#$$

*CK: Strap forces*

# FTAO Approach



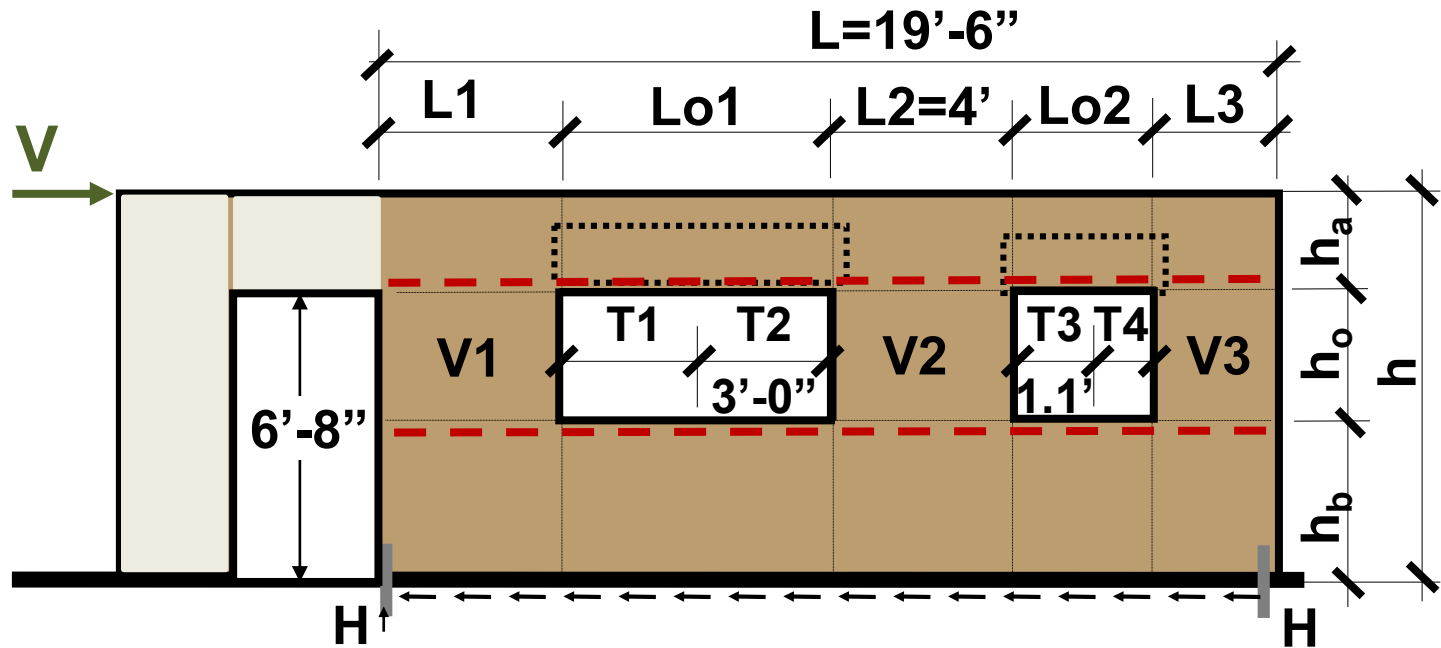
## 5. Tributary length of openings (ft)

$$T_1 = L_1(Lo_1)/(L_1+L_2) = 3' \quad T_2 = L_2(Lo_1)/(L_1+L_2) = 3'$$

$$T_3 = L_2(Lo_2)/(L_2+L_3) = 1.1' \quad T_4 = L_3(Lo_2)/(L_2+L_3) = 0.9'$$

**CK:** Ratio of the length of the pier x length of the opening it is adjacent to, then / (length of the pier + length of the pier on the other side of the opening).

# FTAO Approach



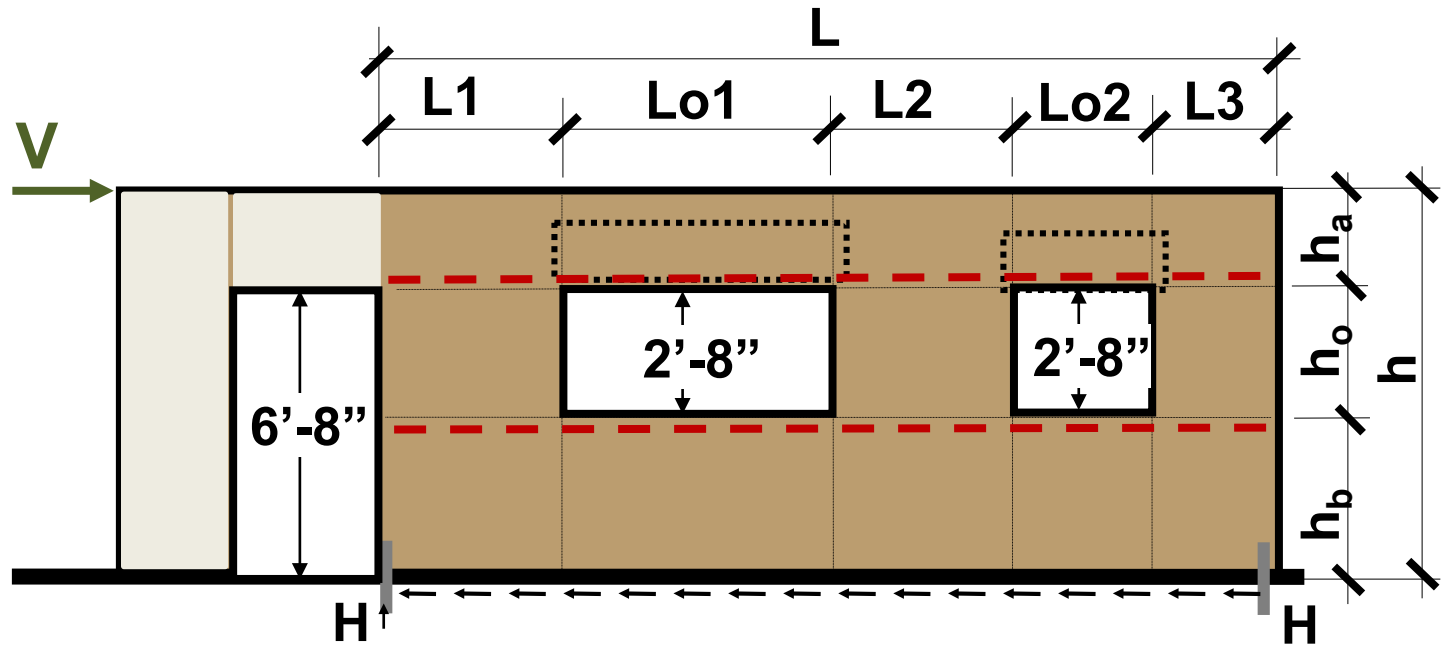
## 6. Unit shear beside the opening

$$V_1 = (V/L)(L_1+T_1)/L_1 = 337 \text{ plf} \quad V_2 = (V/L)(T_2+L_2+T_3)/L_2 = 388 \text{ plf}$$

$$V_3 = (V/L)(T_4+L_3)/L_3 = 244 \text{ plf} \quad \text{Check } V_1 \cdot L_1 + V_2 \cdot L_2 + V_3 \cdot L_3 = V? \text{ YES}$$

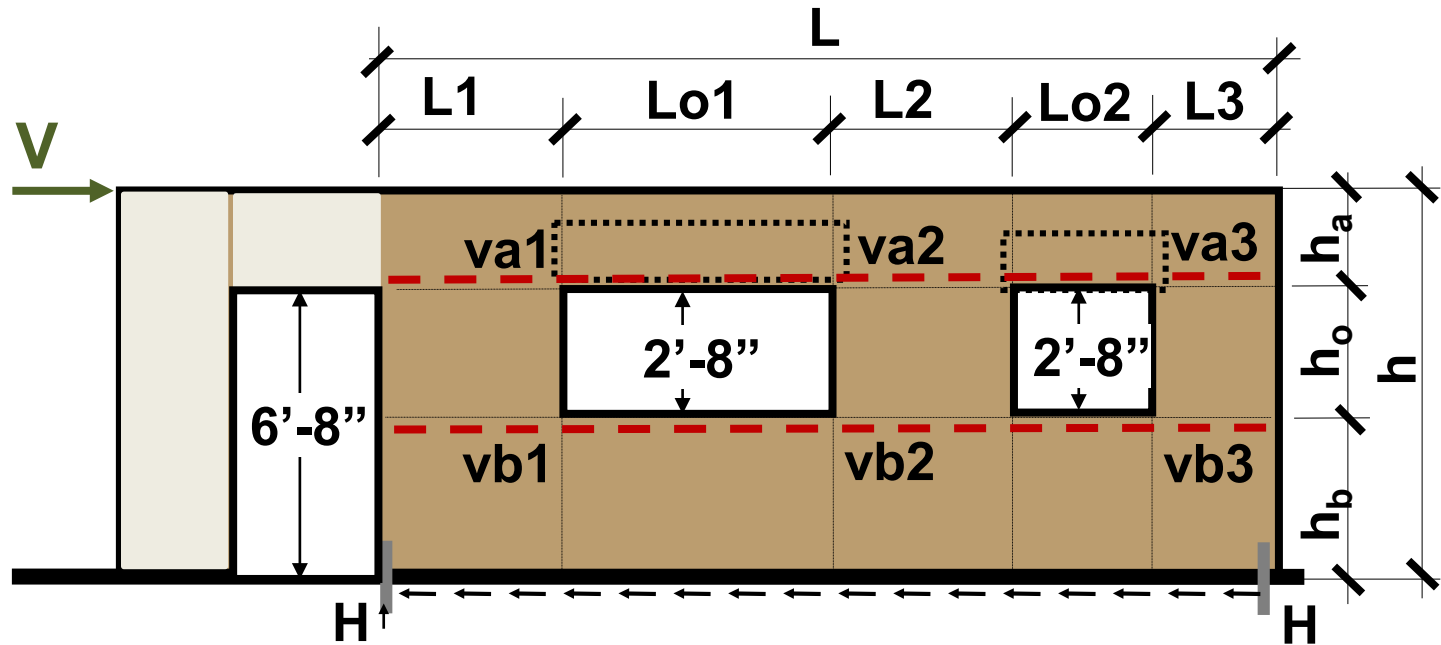
*CK: The shear of each pier = the total shear / the L of the wall x (length of the pier + its tributary length) / by the length of the pier*

# FTAO Approach



- 7. Resistance to corner forces**
- $R_1 = V_1 * L_1 = 1346\text{lbs}$
  - $R_2 = V_2 * L_2 = 1551\text{lbs}$
  - $R_3 = V_3 * L_3 = 853\text{lbs}$
- 8. Resistance – corner force**
- $R_1 - F_1 = 480\text{lbs}$
  - $R_2 - F_2 - F_3 = 377\text{lbs}$
  - $R_3 - F_4 = 583\text{lbs}$

# FTAO Approach

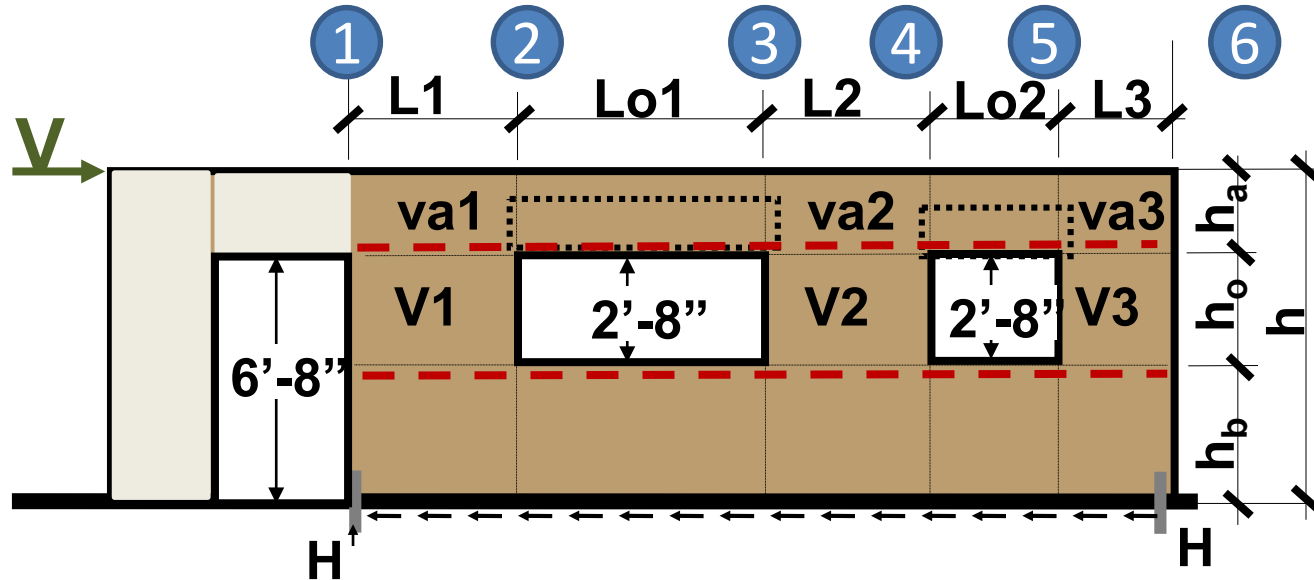


## 9. Unit shear in the corner zones

- $va_1 = (R_1 - F_1) / L_1 = 120 \text{ plf}$
- $va_2 = (R_2 - F_2 - F_3) / L_2 = 94 \text{ plf}$
- $va_3 = (R_3 - F_4) / L_3 = 167 \text{ plf}$

*CK: The unit shear of the corner zones = panel resistance (R) - the corner forces . R = the shear of the pier x the pier length.*

# FTAO Approach



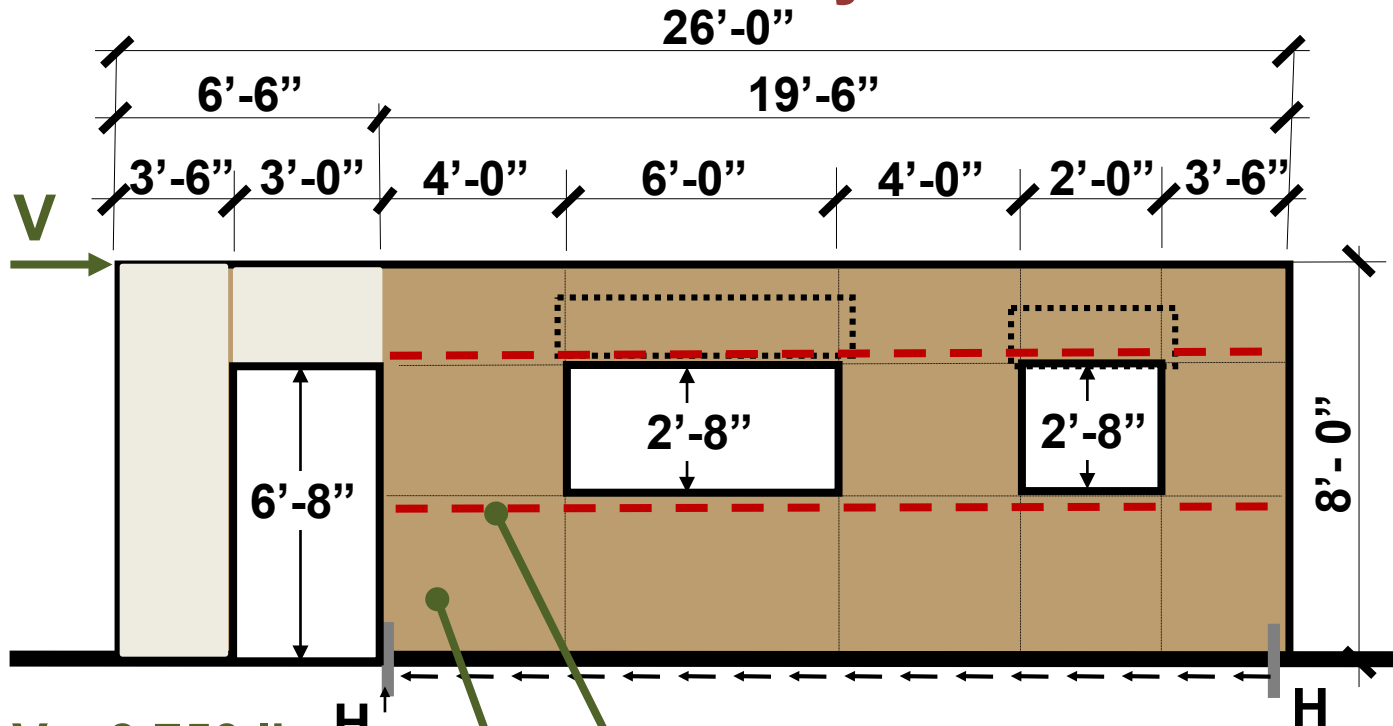
## 10. Check your solution – YES to all

- Line 1:  $va_1(h_a+h_b)+v_1(h_o)=H?$
- Line 2:  $va(h_a+h_b)-va_1(h_a+h_b)-V_1(h_o)=0?$
- Line 3:  $va_2(h_a+h_b)+V_2(h_o)-va(h_a+h_b)=0?$
- Line 4 = Line 3
- Line 5:  $va(h_a+h_b)-va_3(h_a+h_b)-V_3(h_o)=0?$
- Line 6:  $va_3(h_a+h_b)+V_3(h_o)=H?$

**CK:** Once all segment shears are calculated, check the design by summing the shears vertically along each line. The 1st and last = hold-down force, and the rest should = zero.

# FTAO Approach

## Summary

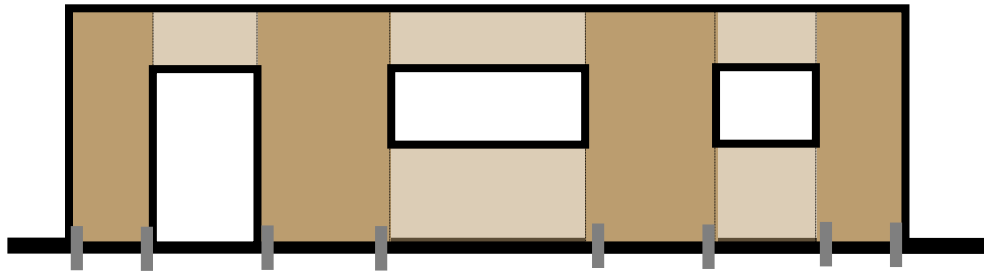


$V = 3,750$  lb  
 $v = 388$  lbs/ft  
 $H = 1,538$  lbs

2-Horizontal straps rated at 866lbs  
15/32" Rated Sheathing 8d @ 4" o.c.

# Shear Wall Design Examples

## Segmented Approach



15/32" Rated sheathing

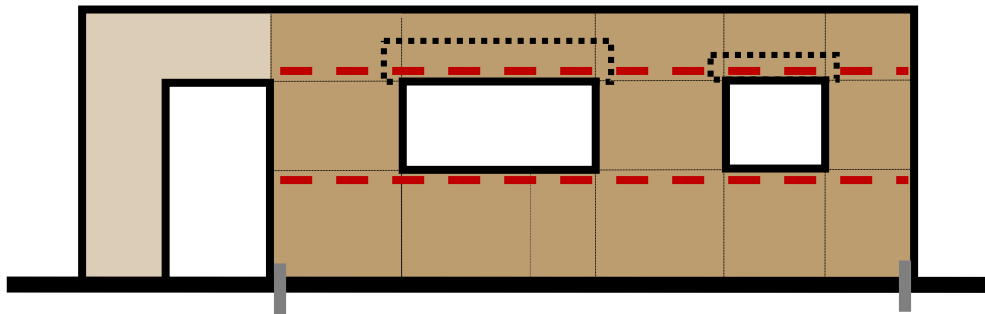
8d @ 4" o.c. (3'-6" walls)

8d @ 6" o.c. (4' walls)

8 – hold downs @ 2000+ lb capacity

---

## Force Transfer



15/32" Rated Sheathing

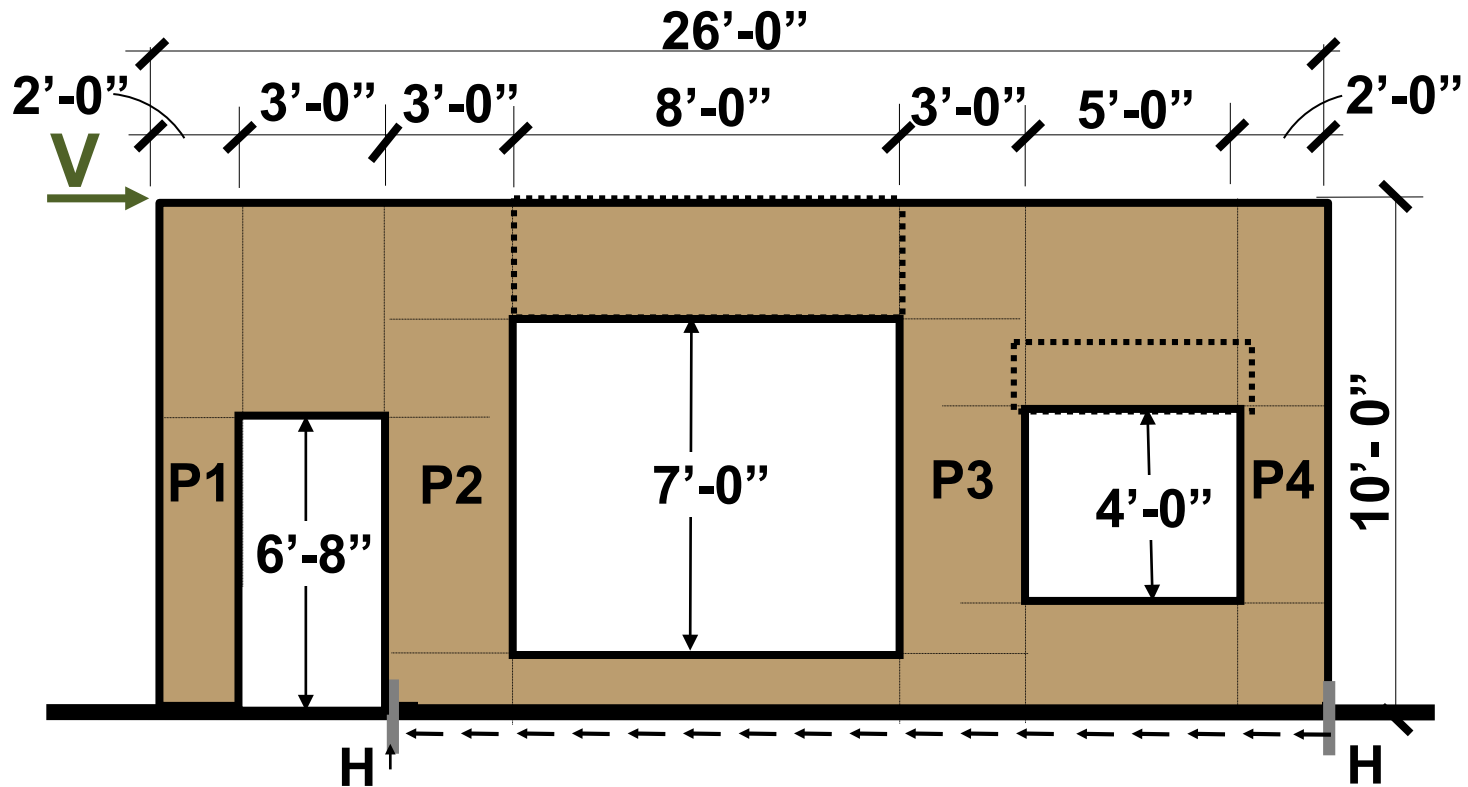
8d @ 4" o.c.

2 – hold downs @ 1,538 lb capacity

2 Straps – 866 lb



# Shear Wall Design Examples



**Segmented & Perforated use full height segments**

- 3.5:1 for 10'-0" = 34"

**FTAO uses heights adjacent to openings**

- 3.5:1 for 7'-0" = 24"    2:1 for 4'-0" = 24"



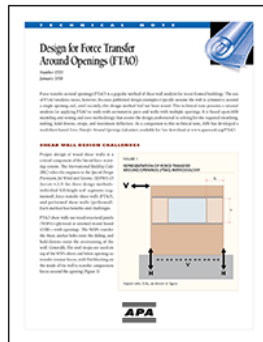
## Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)

### VERSATILE SHEAR WALL ANALYSIS METHOD LENDS GREATER DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

Wood structural panel sheathed shear walls and diaphragms are the primary lateral-load-resisting elements in wood-frame construction. As wood-frame construction is continuously evolving, designers in many parts of the U.S. are optimizing design solutions that require the understanding of force transfer between elements in the lateral load-resisting system.

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis offers some advantages compared to other methods:

- **More versatility**, because the FTAO method allows for the use of narrower wall segments while meeting required height-to-width ratios, and
- A high likelihood that **fewer hold-downs** will be required.



#### Technical Note: Design for Force Transfer Around Openings

This technical note presents a rational analysis for applying FTAO to walls with asymmetric piers and walls with multiple openings. It is based upon APA modeling and testing and uses methodology that assists the design professional in solving for the required sheathing, nailing, hold-downs, straps, and maximum deflection.

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#### Webinar:

Resolving Wood Shear Wall Design Puzzles with Force Transfer Around Openings, DES415, AWC

Provides an overview of the force transfer around openings (FTAO) shear wall design approach, recent research in this area, and a side-by-side comparison of design results between segmented, perforated, and FTAO design methods. AIA, ICC, and NCSEA credits available. Presented by Jared Hensley, PE, APA Engineered Wood Specialist.

[LEARN MORE](#)



#### APA Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

This calculator is an Excel-based tool for professional designers that uses FTAO methodology to calculate maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall

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**Design for Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)**  
Number 1000  
January 2018

Force transfer around openings (FTAO) is a specific method of shear wall analysis for wood-frame buildings. The use of FTAO is required when shear force is applied to a wall around an opening. The wall is considered around a single opening and must satisfy the design method that has been tested. The technical note presents a rational analysis for applying FTAO to walls with asymmetric piers and walls with multiple openings. It is based upon APA modeling and testing and uses methodology that assists the design professional in solving for the required sheathing, nailing, hold-downs, straps, and maximum deflection.

**SHEAR WALL DESIGN CHALLENGES**

Proper design of wood shear walls is a complex task. The International Building Code (IBC) requires compliance with the Seismic Design Provisions for Wood and Masonry (SDPWS) for Seismic VLS. For shear design, methods include individual full-height wall segments (rigid-walled) force transfer above walls (FTAO) and perforated shear walls (perforated shear walls) transfer and design.

FTAO shear walls are wood-framed walls that are rigidly connected to a central vertical beam (CB) — roof opening. The walls transfer the shear around the opening and both sides into the remaining part of the wall. Shear force and moment are transferred to the walls of the wall in a rigid-walled connection. Force transfer is shown in Figure 1.

APA

## Technical Note: Design for Force Transfer Around Openings

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**APA FTAO CALCULATOR**

FORCE TRANSFER AROUND OPENINGS

DOWNLOAD

## APA Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

This calculator is an Excel-based tool for professional designers that uses FTAO methodology to calculate maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall system. The calculator includes worksheets for shear walls with one, two, and three openings and a design example.

## APA Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

This calculator is an Excel-based tool for professional designers that uses FTAO methodology to calculate maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall

APA FTAO CALCULATOR


# FTAO Technical Note: Form T555

- **Technical Note: Design for Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)**
  - **APA Form T555**
- **Presents a rational analysis for applying FTAO to walls with asymmetric piers and walls with multiple openings**
- **Based on Wall 12 testing configuration**

T E C H N I C A L   N O T E

## Design for Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)

Number T555  
January 2018

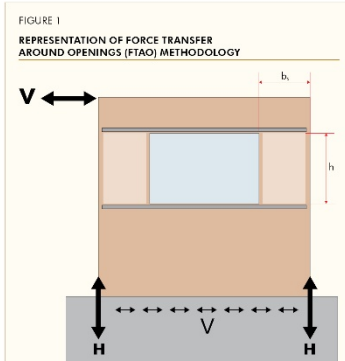


Force transfer around openings (FTAO) is a popular method of shear wall analysis for wood-framed buildings. The use of FTAO analysis varies, however, because published design examples typically assume the wall is symmetric around a single opening and, until recently, this design method had not been tested. This technical note presents a rational analysis for applying FTAO to walls with asymmetric piers and walls with multiple openings. It is based upon APA modeling and testing and uses methodology that assists the design professional in solving for the required sheathing, nailing, hold-downs, straps, and maximum deflection. As a companion to this technical note, APA has developed an Excel-based *Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator*, available for free download at [www.apawood.org/FTAO](http://www.apawood.org/FTAO).


### SHEAR WALL DESIGN CHALLENGES

Proper design of wood shear walls is a critical component of the lateral force resisting system. The *International Building Code (IBC)* refers the engineer to the *Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS-15)* Section 4.3.5 for three design methods: individual full-height wall segments (segmented), force transfer shear walls (FTAO), and perforated shear walls (perforated). Each method has benefits and challenges.

FTAO shear walls use wood structural panels (WSPs)—plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)—with openings. The WSPs transfer the shear, anchor bolts resist the sliding, and hold-downs resist the overturning of the wall. Generally, flat steel straps are used on top of the WSPs above and below openings to transfer tension forces, with flat blocking on the inside of the wall to transfer compression forces around the opening (Figure 1).



Aspect ratio,  $h/b$ , as shown in figure



# FTAO Technical Note: Form T555

- Provides a design example for FTAO wall with two window openings
- FTAO Calculator: Companion to Technical Note

Design for Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)

**EXAMPLE: FTAO CALCULATIONS WITH TWO WINDOW OPENINGS**

Given a 26-foot-long wall that is 8 feet tall with a 3,750 pound shear force, the shear wall is designed using FTAO around two windows with different pier widths.

**FIGURE 3**  
MULTIPLE OPENING FTAO DESIGN EXAMPLE

$V = 3,750 \text{ lbf}$   
 Height/width Ratio = 2'-8" : 3'-6" = 0.76 : 1  
 15/32" Rated Sheathing Bd at 4' o.c.  
 2 hold-downs at 1,550 lbf capacity

The following example was based on calculations from APA's Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator worksheet (an Excel spreadsheet, available for free download at [www.apawood.org/FTAO](http://www.apawood.org/FTAO)). One may observe minor mathematical differences as a result of numerical rounding in this publication.

1. Calculate the hold-down forces:  $H = V \times h/l = 3,750 \times 8/19.5 = 1,538 \text{ lbf}$
2. Solve for the unit shear above and below the openings:  $v_u = v_b = H/(h_u + h_b) = 1,538/(4 + 1.33) = 288 \text{ plf}$
3. Find the total boundary force above and below the openings:
  - a. First opening:  $O_1 = v_u \times (L_1) = 288 \times 6 = 1,731 \text{ lbf}$
  - b. Second opening:  $O_2 = v_b \times (L_2) = 288 \times 2 = 577 \text{ lbf}$
4. Calculate the corner forces:
  - a.  $F_1 = O_1(L_2)/(L_1 + L_2) = 1,731(4)/(4 + 4) = 865 \text{ lbf}$
  - b.  $F_2 = O_2(L_1)/(L_1 + L_2) = 577(4)/(4 + 4) = 577 \text{ lbf}$
  - c.  $F_3 = O_1(L_2)/(L_1 + L_2) = 1,731(4)/(4 + 3.5) = 308 \text{ lbf}$
  - d.  $F_4 = O_2(L_1)/(L_1 + L_2) = 577(3.5)/(4 + 3.5) = 269 \text{ lbf}$

Form No. T555 ■ © 2018 APA - The Engineered Wood Association ■ [www.apawood.org](http://www.apawood.org) 6

# APA FTAO Calculator

- **Excel-based tool released January 2018**
- **Based on design methodology developed by Diekmann**
- **Calculates:**
  - **Max hold-down force for uplift resistance**
  - **Required horizontal strap force above and below openings**
  - **Max shear force for sheathing attachments**
  - **Max deflection**
- **Design example corresponds with FTAO Technical Note (Form T555)**



## **APA Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator**

This calculator is an Excel-based tool for professional designers that uses FTAO methodology to calculate maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall system. The calculator includes worksheets for shear walls with one, two, and three openings and a design example.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

# APA FTAO Calculator

www.apawood.org/FTAO



## Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis is an approach that aims to reinforce the wall such that it performs as if there was no opening. This approach lends certain advantages over segmented shear walls: more versatility, because it allows for narrower wall segments while still meeting the height-to-width ratios and, often, fewer required hold-downs.

### Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO) Calculator Instructions

The APA Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO) Calculator is divided into three worksheets: shear wall with one opening, shear wall with two openings, and shear wall with three openings. Each calculation tab will produce the maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall system.

To use the calculator, [input the required information into the ORANGE input cells](#); definitions for the required cell inputs can be found below. Move quickly between input cells by using the **TAB** key. Certain input cells, such as the Hold-Down Capacity input in the deflection calculation, have comment dialogue to clarify the input.

### Variables for Shear Wall Calculations

**V** = Applied shear as lateral force at top of wall in pounds (lb).

**L(i)** = Length of individual wall pier segment as indicated by L1, L2, L3 and L4 measured in feet (ft).

**Lo(i)** = Length for individual clear openings as indicated by Lo1, Lo2 and Lo3 measured in feet (ft).

**ho1** = Maximum clear opening height of any opening in the wall system. Will be reported as ho1, ho2 and ho3 measured in feet (ft).

**ha1** = Height of continuous sheathing above the opening in correlation with **ho1** above. Will be reported as ha1, ha2 and ha3 measured in feet (ft).

**hb1** = Height of continuous sheathing below the opening in correlation with **ho1** above. Will be reported as hb1, hb2 and hb3 measured in feet (ft).

**h<sub>wall</sub>** = Total **calculated** height of shear wall from bottom of sill plate to top of top plate measured in feet (ft). Calculated as the summation of **ho1**, **ha1**, and **hb1**.

**L<sub>wall</sub>** = Total **calculated** length of shear wall measured in feet (ft). Calculated as the summation of **L(i)** and **Lo(i)**.

### Variables for Shear Wall Deflection Calculations

Instructions & Definitions

Design Example

One Opening

Two Openings


Three Openings ...





# FTAO Calculator: Design Example

www.apawood.org/FTAO



## Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

DESIGN EXAMPLE

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis is an approach that aims to reinforce the wall such that it performs as if there was no opening. This approach lends certain advantages over segmented shear walls: more versatility, because it allows for narrower wall segments while still meeting the height-to-width ratios and, often, fewer required hold-downs.

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**Project Information**

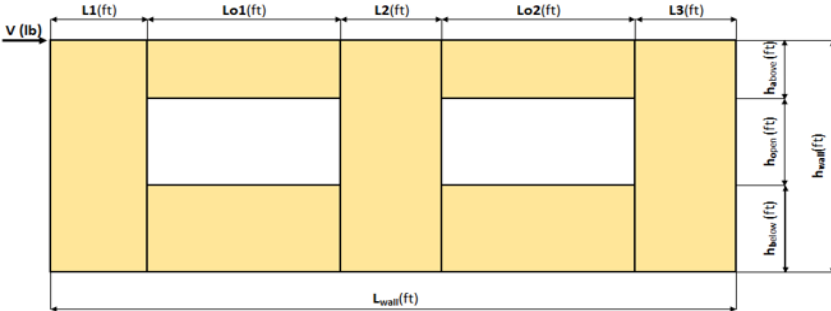
Code: 2015 IBC Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Designer: APA

Client: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: Design Example

Wall Line: \_\_\_\_\_



**Shear Wall Calculation Variables**

	Opening 1	Opening 2	Wall Pier Aspect Ratio	Adj. Factor
V	3750 lbf			
L1	4.00 ft	ha1 = 1.33 ft	P1=ho1/L1= 0.67	N/A
L2	4.00 ft	ho1 = 2.67 ft	P2=ho2/L2= 0.67	N/A
L3	3.50 ft	hb1 = 4.00 ft	P3=ho2/L3= 0.76	N/A
h <sub>wall</sub>	8.00 ft	Lo1 = 6.00 ft		
L <sub>wall</sub>	19.50 ft	Lo2 = 2.00 ft		

**1. Hold-down forces:**  $H = Vh_{wall}/L_{wall}$  = 1538 lbf

**2. Unit shear above + below opening**

First opening:  $v_{a1} = v_{b1} = H/(h_{a1} + h_{b1}) = 288$  plf

Second opening:  $v_{a2} = v_{b2} = H/(h_{a2} + h_{b2}) = 288$  plf

**6. Unit shear beside opening**

$V1 = (V/L)(L1 + T1)/L1 = 337$  plf

$V2 = (V/L)(T2 + L2 + T3)/L2 = 388$  plf


$V3 = (V/L)(T4 + L3)/L3 = 244$  plf

Instructions & Definitions
Design Example
One Opening
Two Openings
Three Openings
+



# FTAO Calculator: One Opening

www.apawood.org/FTAO



## Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

### ONE OPENING

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis is an approach that aims to reinforce the wall such that it performs as if there was no opening. This approach lends certain advantages over segmented shear walls: more versatility, because it allows for narrower wall segments while still meeting the height-to-width ratios and, often, fewer required hold-downs.

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**Project Information**

Code:

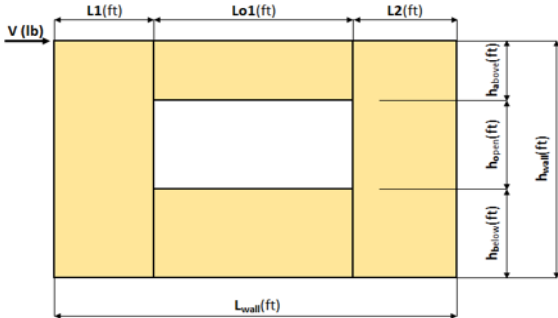
Designer:

Client:

Project:

Wall Line:

Date:



**Shear Wall Calculation Variables**

V	<input type="text"/>	Opening 1	Wall Pier Aspect Ratio	Adj. Factor	
L1	<input type="text"/>	ha1	P1=ho1/L1=		
L2	<input type="text"/>	ho1	P2=ho1/L2=		
h <sub>wall</sub>	<input type="text" value="0.00 ft"/>	hb1			
L <sub>wall</sub>	<input type="text" value="0.00 ft"/>	Lo1			

**1. Hold-down forces:**  $H = Vh_{wall}/L_{wall}$

**2. Unit shear above + below opening**

First opening:  $va1 = vb1 = H/(ha1+hb1) =$


**6. Unit shear beside opening**

$V1 = (V/L)(L1+T1)/L1 =$

$V2 = (V/L)(T2+L2)/L2 =$


Check  $V1*L1+V2*L2=V?$

Instructions & Definitions | Design Example | **One Opening** | Two Openings | Three Openings | +



# FTAO Calculator: Two Openings

www.apawood.org/FTAO



## Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

### TWO OPENINGS

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis is an approach that aims to reinforce the wall such that it performs as if there was no opening. This approach lends certain advantages over segmented shear walls: more versatility, because it allows for narrower wall segments while still meeting the height-to-width ratios and, often, fewer required hold-downs.

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**Project Information**

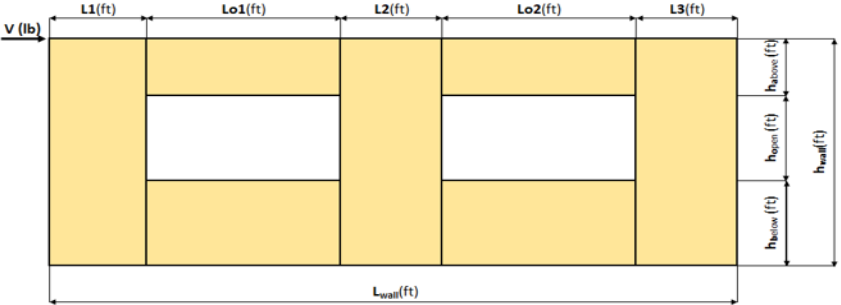
Code:  Date:

Designer:

Client:

Project:

Wall Line:



Shear Wall Calculation Variables					
	Opening 1	Opening 2	Wall Pier Aspect Ratio	Adj. Factor	
V	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>		
L1	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	0.00 ft	P1=ho1/L1=		
L2	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	0.00 ft	P2=ho2/L2=		
L3	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	0.00 ft	P3=ho2/L3=		
h <sub>wall</sub>	0.00 ft	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>			
L <sub>wall</sub>	0.00 ft	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>			

**1. Hold-down forces:**  $H = Vh_{wall}/L_{wall}$

**2. Unit shear above + below opening**

First opening:  $va1 = vb1 = H/(ha1+hb1) =$

Second opening:  $va2 = vb2 = H/(ha2+hb2) =$

**6. Unit shear beside opening**

$V1 = (V/L)(L1+T1)/L1 =$

$V2 = (V/L)(T2+L2+T3)/L2 =$

$V3 = (V/L)(T4+L3)/L3 =$

Instructions & Definitions
Design Example
One Opening


Two Openings

Three Openings



# FTAO Calculator: Three Openings

www.apawood.org/FTAO



## Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

### THREE OPENINGS

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis is an approach that aims to reinforce the wall such that it performs as if there was no opening. This approach lends certain advantages over segmented shear walls: more versatility, because it allows for narrower wall segments while still meeting the height-to-width ratios and, often, fewer required hold-downs.

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**Project Information**

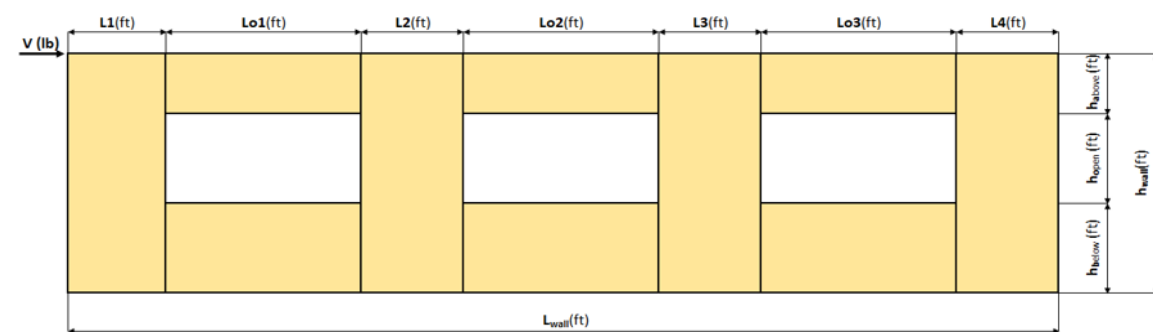
Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Designer: \_\_\_\_\_

Client: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Wall Line: \_\_\_\_\_



Shear Wall Calculation Variables						
	Opening 1	Opening 2	Opening 3	Wall Pier Aspect Ratio	Adj. Factor	
V				P1=ho1/L1=		
L1	ha1	ha2 0.00 ft	ha3 0.00 ft	P2=ho2/L2=		
L2	ho1	ho2 0.00 ft	ho3 0.00 ft	P3=ho3/L3=		
L3	hb1	hb2 0.00 ft	hb3 0.00 ft	P4=ho3/L4=		
L4	Lo1	Lo2	Lo3			
h <sub>wall</sub>	0.00 ft					
L <sub>wall</sub>	0.00 ft					


**1. Hold-down forces:  $H = Vh_{wall}/L_{wall}$**

**2. Unit shear above + below opening**

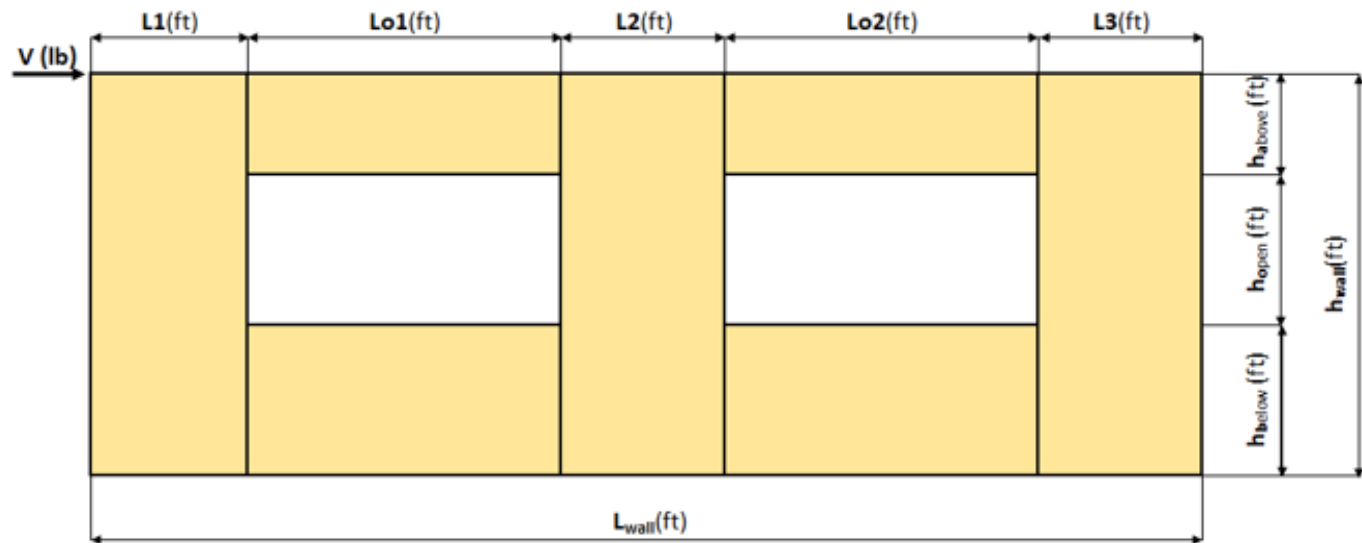
**6. Unit shear beside opening**

$V1 = (V/L)(L1+T1)/L1 =$

Instructions & Definitions
Design Example
One Opening
Two Openings
Three Openings
+



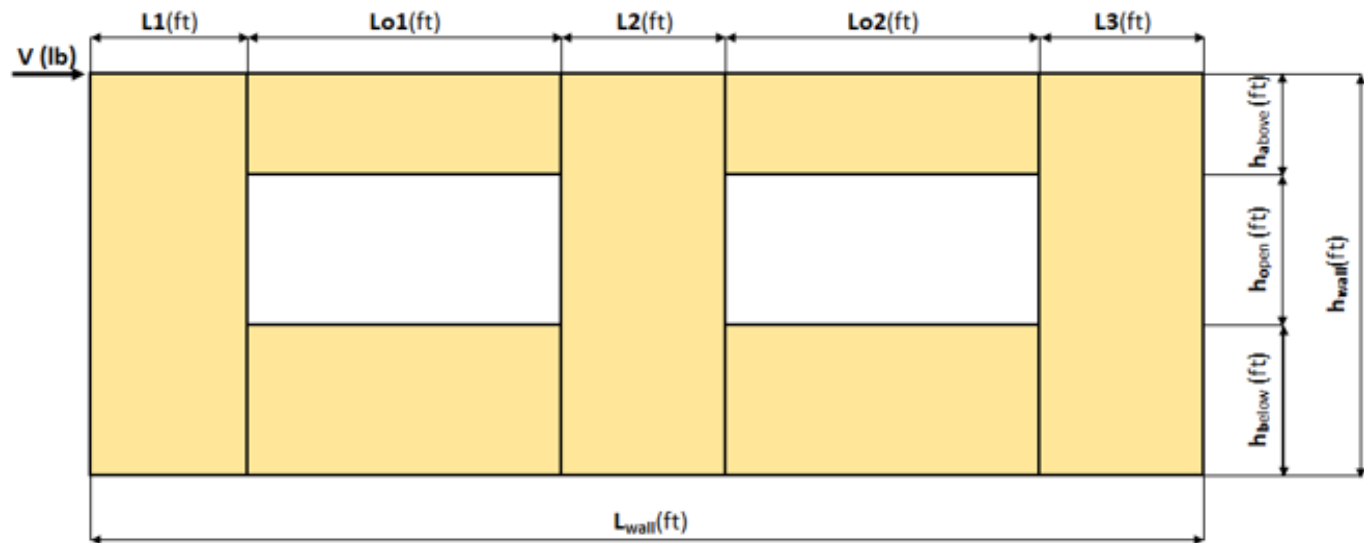
# FTAO Calculator: Inputs



Shear Wall Calculation Variables

		Opening 1		Opening 2		Wall Pier Aspect Ratio		Adj. Factor
V	3750 lbf	ha1	1.33 ft	ha2	1.33 ft	P1=ho1/L1=	0.67	N/A
L1	4.00 ft	ho1	2.67 ft	ho2	2.67 ft	P2=ho2/L2=	0.67	N/A
L2	4.00 ft	hb1	4.00 ft	hb2	4.00 ft	P3=ho2/L3=	0.76	N/A
L3	3.50 ft	Lo1	6.00 ft	Lo2	2.00 ft			
h <sub>wall</sub>	8.00 ft							
L <sub>wall</sub>	19.50 ft							

# FTAO Calculator: Inputs



Shear Wall Calculation Variables

V	3750 lbf
L1	4.00 ft
L2	4.00 ft
L3	3.50 ft
$h_{wall}$	8.00 ft
$L_{wall}$	19.50 ft

Opening 1	
ha1	1.33 ft
ho1	2.67 ft
hb1	4.00 ft
Lo1	6.00 ft

Opening 2	
ha2	1.33 ft
ho2	2.67 ft
hb2	4.00 ft
Lo2	2.00 ft

Wall Pier Aspect Ratio		Adj. Factor
P1=ho1/L1=	0.67	N/A
P2=ho2/L2=	0.67	N/A
P3=ho2/L3=	0.76	N/A

# FTAO Calculator: Shear wall analysis

**1. Hold-down forces:**  $H = Vh_{\text{wall}}/L_{\text{wall}}$  1538 lbf

**2. Unit shear above + below opening**

First opening:  $va1 = vb1 = H/(ha1+hb1) = 288$  plf  
 Second opening:  $va2 = vb2 = H/(ha2+hb2) = 288$  plf

**3. Total boundary force above + below openings**

First opening:  $O1 = va1 \times (Lo1) = 1731$  lbf  
 Second opening:  $O2 = va2 \times (Lo2) = 577$  lbf

**4. Corner forces**

$F1 = O1(L1)/(L1+L2) = 865$  lbf  
 $F2 = O1(L2)/(L1+L2) = 865$  lbf  
 $F3 = O2(L2)/(L2+L3) = 308$  lbf  
 $F4 = O2(L3)/(L2+L3) = 269$  lbf

**5. Tributary length of openings**

$T1 = (L1*Lo1)/(L1+L2) = 3.00$  ft  
 $T2 = (L2*Lo1)/(L1+L2) = 3.00$  ft  
 $T3 = (L2*Lo2)/(L2+L3) = 1.07$  ft  
 $T4 = (L3*Lo2)/(L2+L3) = 0.93$  ft

**6. Unit shear beside opening**

$V1 = (V/L)(L1+T1)/L1 = 337$  plf  
 $V2 = (V/L)(T2+L2+T3)/L2 = 388$  plf  
 $V3 = (V/L)(T4+L3)/L3 = 244$  plf  
 Check  $V1*L1+V2*L2+V3*L3=V?$  3750 lbf **OK**

**7. Resistance to corner forces**

$R1 = V1*L1 = 1346$  lbf  
 $R2 = V2*L2 = 1551$  lbf  
 $R3 = V3*L3 = 853$  lbf

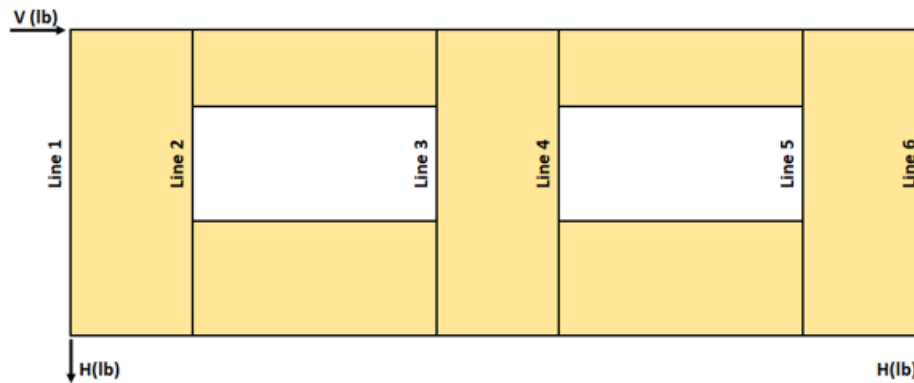
**8. Difference corner force + resistance**

$R1-F1 = 481$  lbf  
 $R2-F2-F3 = 378$  lbf  
 $R3-F4 = 583$  lbf

**9. Unit shear in corner zones**

$vc1 = (R1-F1)/L1 = 120$  plf  
 $vc2 = (R2-F2-F3)/L2 = 95$  plf  
 $vc3 = (R3-F4)/L3 = 167$  plf

# FTAO Calculator: Shear wall analysis



## Check Summary of Shear Values for Two Openings

Line 1: $vc_1(ha_1+hb_1)+V_1(ho_1)=H?$		641	897	1538 lbf
Line 2: $va_1(ha_1+hb_1)-vc_1(ha_1+hb_1)-V_1(ho_1)=0?$	1538	641	897	0
Line 3: $vc_2(ha_1+hb_1)+V_2(ho_1)-va_1(ha_1+hb_1)=0?$	504	1034	1538	0
Line 4: $va_2(ha_2+hb_2)-V_2(ho_2)-vc_2(ha_2+hb_2)=0?$	1538	1034	504	0
Line 5: $va_2(ha_2+hb_2)-vc_3(ha_2+hb_2)-V_3(ho_2)=0?$	1538	889	650	0
Line 6: $vc_3(ha_2+hb_2)+V_3(ho_2)=H?$		889	650	1538 lbf

## Design Summary

Req. Sheathing Capacity	388 plf
Req. Strap Force	865 lbf
Req. HD Force (H)	1538 lbf

4-Term Deflection	0.316 in.
4-Term Story Drift %	0.013 %

See Page 2

3-Term Deflection	0.335 in.
3-Term Story Drift %	0.014 %

See Page 3

# FTAO Calculator: Design Output

## Design output:

- Required sheathing capacity
- Required strap force above and below openings
- Required hold-down force
- Maximum deflection

### Design Summary

Req. Sheathing Capacity	388 plf	4-Term Deflection	0.316 in.	3-Term Deflection	0.335 in.
Req. Strap Force	865 lbf	4-Term Story Drift %	0.013 %	3-Term Story Drift %	0.014 %
Req. HD Force (H)	1538 lbf		See Page 2		See Page 3





# FTAO Calculator

## Three-Term Equation Deflection Check

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{1000G_a} + \frac{h\Delta_a}{b} \quad (4.3-1)$$

	Pier 1-L	Pier 1-R	Pier 2-L	Pier 2-R	Pier 3-L	Pier 3-R	
Sheathing:	7/16	7/16	7/16	7/16	7/16	7/16	
Nail:	8d common	8d common	8d common	8d common	8d common	8d common	
$V_{asd}$ :	337	337	388	388	244	244	(plf)
$V_{strength}$ :	481	481	554	554	348	348	(plf)
E:	1.60E+06	1.60E+06	1.60E+06	1.60E+06	1.60E+06	1.60E+06	(psi)
h:	8.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	8.00	(ft)
A:	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	(in. <sup>2</sup> )
$G_a$ :	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	(kips/in.)
b:	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.50	3.50	(ft)
HD Capacity:	2145	2145	2145	2145	2145	2145	(lbf)
HD Defl.:	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	(in.)

## Check Total Deflection of Wall System

Pier 1 (left)			Pier 1 (right)		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Bending	Shear	Fastener	Bending	Shear	Fastener
0.019	0.175	0.459	0.002	0.087	0.115
Sum		0.653	Sum		0.205
Pier 2 (left)			Pier 2 (right)		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Bending	Shear	Fastener	Bending	Shear	Fastener
0.003	0.101	0.132	0.003	0.101	0.132
Sum		0.236	Sum		0.236

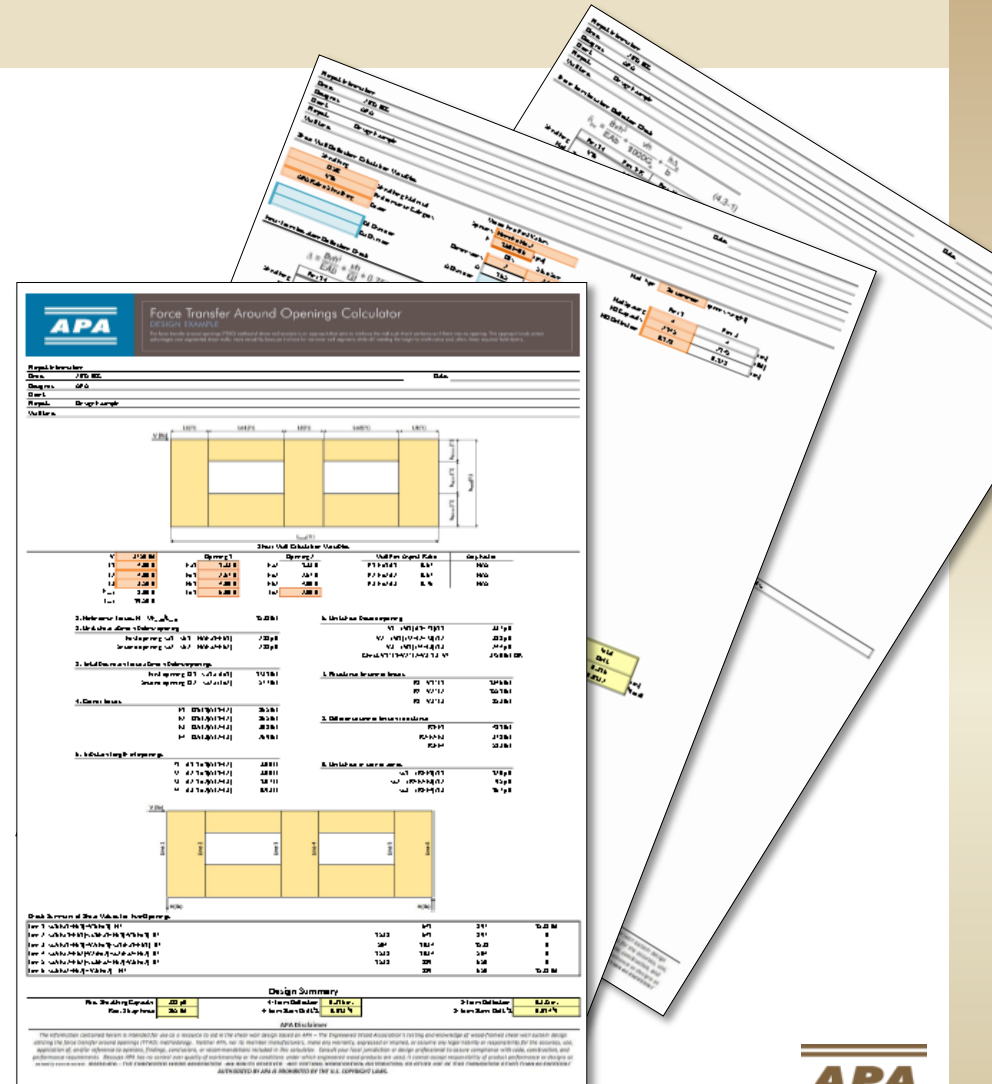
Total Defl.	
0.335	(in.)
0.0140	%drift



# FTAO Calculator: Final Output

## Final Design Output

- Summary of input parameters
- FTAO shear wall analysis
- Summary of final design requirements
- Total calculated deflection
- Three-page shear wall design to include in calculation package
  - Print directly from Excel
  - Save as PDF



# Benefits of FTAO with Continuous Wood Structural Panels

## For the Structural Engineer...

- Straightforward rational analysis
- Easy to program: Excel, web based application, or other
- Design check = confidence in calculations

CHECK				
Line 1: $va_1(ha+hb)+V_1(ho)=H?$	641	897	1538	
Line 2: $va(ha+hb)-va_1(ha+hb)-V_1(ho)=0?$	1538	641	897	0
Line 3: $va_2(ha+hb)+V_2(ho)-va(ha+hb)=0?$	504	1034	1538	0
Line 4 = Line 3				
Line 5: $va(ha+hb)-va_3(ha+hb)-V_3(ho)=0?$	1538	889	650	0
Line 6: $va_3(ha+hb)+V_3(ho)=H?$	889	650	1538	

# Benefits of FTAO with Continuous WSPs

## Architectural flexibility

- Definition of aspect ratio
- Building envelope
  - Uninterrupted drainage plane
  - Minimize water intrusion



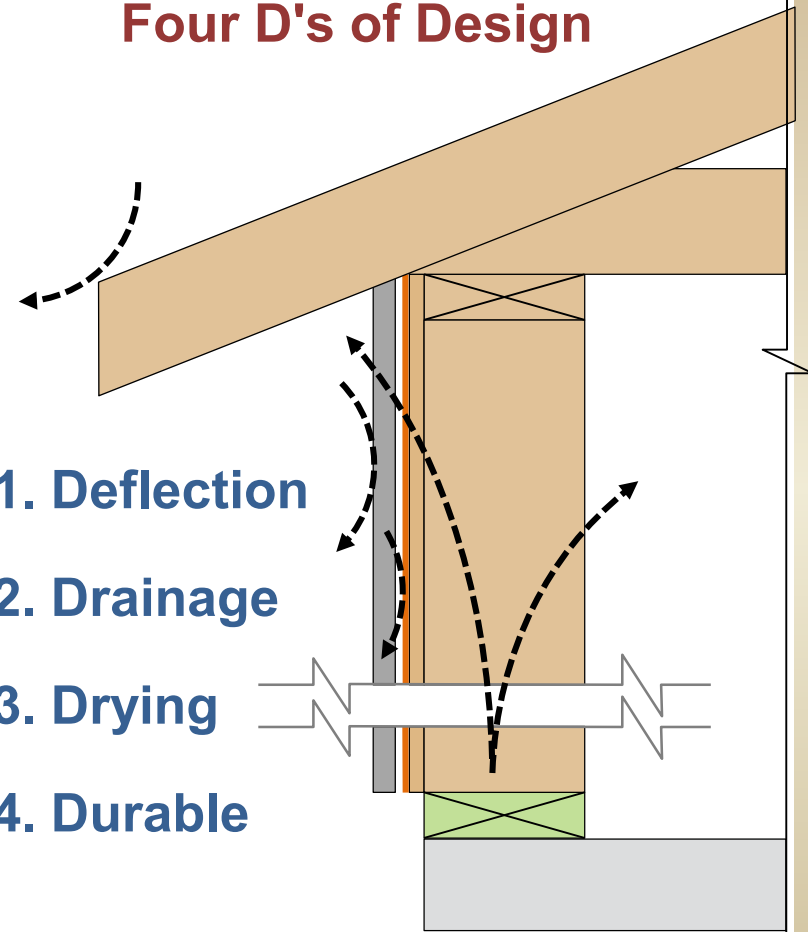
## Four D's of Design

1. Deflection

2. Drainage

3. Drying

4. Durable

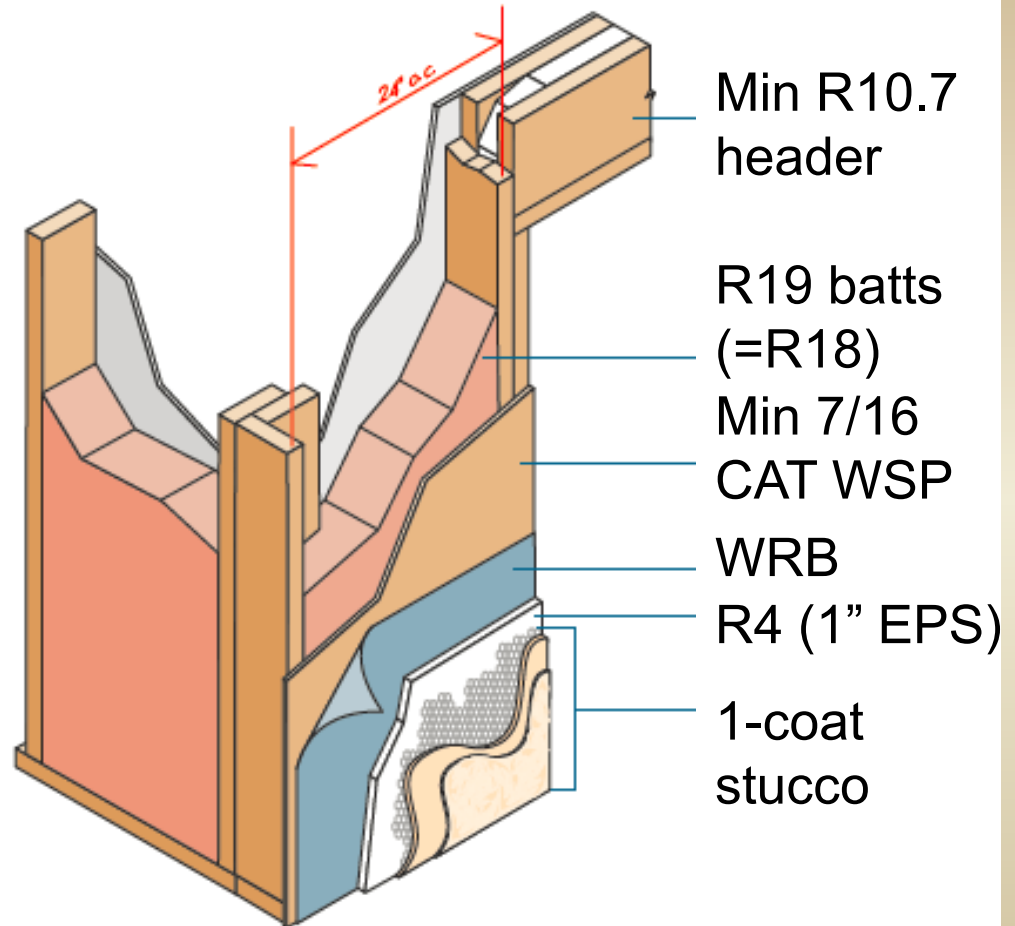


# Benefits of FTAO with Continuous WSPs

## Structural Systems that Enhance Energy Efficiency

- **High Performance Wall Systems**

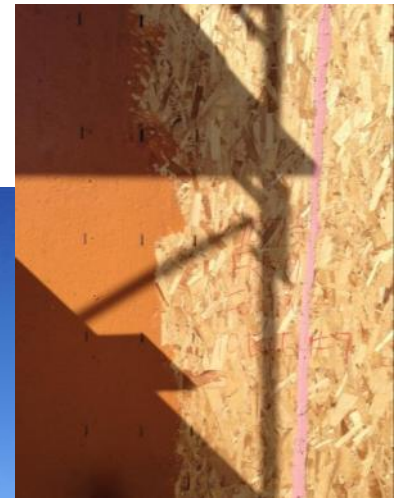
- **2x6 Advanced Framing**
- **Insulated headers and corners**



# Benefits of FTAO with Continuous WSPs

## Air Infiltration = Energy Loss

- Air barrier should be continuous
- Joints need to be sealed (i.e. blocked panel edges)
- Need water resistive barrier





# Benefits of FTAO with Continuous WSPs

## Value proposition

- Reduction of more costly components
- Continuous nail base + stiffer wall = fewer callbacks due to:
  - Stucco cracking, water intrusion, wall buckling





# Conclusions





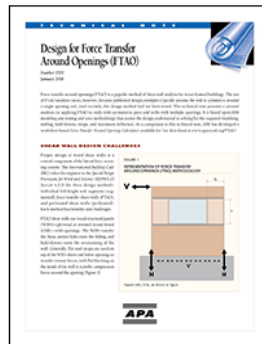
## Force Transfer Around Openings (FTAO)

### VERSATILE SHEAR WALL ANALYSIS METHOD LENDS GREATER DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

Wood structural panel sheathed shear walls and diaphragms are the primary lateral-load-resisting elements in wood-frame construction. As wood-frame construction is continuously evolving, designers in many parts of the U.S. are optimizing design solutions that require the understanding of force transfer between elements in the lateral load-resisting system.

The force transfer around openings (FTAO) method of shear wall analysis offers some advantages compared to other methods:

- **More versatility**, because the FTAO method allows for the use of narrower wall segments while meeting required height-to-width ratios, and
- A high likelihood that **fewer hold-downs** will be required.



#### Technical Note: Design for Force Transfer Around Openings

This technical note presents a rational analysis for applying FTAO to walls with asymmetric piers and walls with multiple openings. It is based upon APA modeling and testing and uses methodology that assists the design professional in solving for the required sheathing, nailing, hold-downs, straps, and maximum deflection.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



#### APA Force Transfer Around Openings Calculator

This calculator is an Excel-based tool for professional designers that uses FTAO methodology to calculate maximum hold-down force for uplift resistance, the required horizontal strap force for the tension straps above and below openings, the maximum shear force to determine sheathing attachment, and the maximum deflection of the wall

#### Webinar:

Resolving Wood Shear Wall Design Puzzles with Force Transfer Around Openings, DES415, AWC

Provides an overview of the force transfer around openings (FTAO) shear wall design approach, recent research in this area, and a side-by-side comparison of design results between segmented, perforated, and FTAO design methods. AIA, ICC, and NCSEA credits available. Presented by Jared Hensley, PE, APA Engineered Wood Specialist.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# Questions?

The logo for the American Paper Association (APA) features the letters "APA" in a bold, italicized, black sans-serif font. The text is centered between two thick, horizontal black bars, one above and one below, creating a stylized, framed effect.

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# Advancements in Force Transfer Around Openings for Wood Framed Shear Walls

