

Second collapse at Upper Vista Welland Condominiums

By [Dave Johnson](#) Tribune Reporter
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After a partial collapse eight days ago, Upper Vista Welland Condominiums suffered a second one Sunday, says Welland's chief building official, Jack Tosta, .

Welland Fire and Emergency Services firefighters were called to the 226-unit, five-storey, two-tower building under construction at 350 Prince Charles Dr. at 10:04 a.m. after a resident reported hearing a collapse.

A release from the city said firefighters reported no injuries.

It said additional components endured structural failure on the south side, the same area as the initial collapse on Feb. 18.

This video supplied to the Welland Tribune shows Upper Vista Welland Condominiums' second collapse on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023

“The Ministry of Labour has control of the site and has prohibited anyone from accessing the building,” said Tosta.

He said the ministry has jurisdiction to conduct an investigation “to determine if the condition of the building is safe to allow access for further evaluation of the structural engineering components.”

The ministry shut down the site last weekend, began its investigation and issued two orders against the developer, the details of which it did not disclose to protect the integrity of its investigation.

A week ago, the City of Welland issued an order to “remedy an unsafe building” under the Ontario Building Code to the owner Evertrust Development.

The \$55-million luxury condo project is steps away from the Welland Recreational Canal and was to open in the fall of 2024.

All units in the building, split into north and south towers, are sold.

Last Tuesday, a public relations company contracted by the developer said it was unable to comment due to the ministry investigation.

Sunday's collapse appeared to have taken down concrete slabs from the fourth floor to the first on the south end of the building, with one section stretching to the middle of the structure.

Concrete and metal debris littered the ground inside the site.

A steel beam and concrete also fell across the pathway on the east side of the building. The city closed that path with fencing after the previous weekend's collapse.

The city's release said the cordoned-off area with security fencing is expanding out of an abundance of caution, and the trail along the canal in the area remains closed until further notice.

The cause of both incidents has not been determined, the city said.