

PURPOSE:

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses response to and operations during a structural collapse; may also include information on equipment use and maintenance.

Response to and Operations during a Structural Collapse:

TRAINING

To be member of the team, members must have a minimum training of Structural Collapse Operations to met the NFPA 11670 standards. South Wall Structural Collapse team will train on a by monthly schedule to be announced by the team leadership through out the year. To maintain an active status of the team members must attend and participate in 5 collapse drills per year.

DISPATCH

When a request is made for the South Wall Structural Collapse Team, Wall Communications will dispatch the Neptune Special Ops Team (34-8).

RESPONSE

South Wall Collapse team members will mobilize at the Atlantic Ave firehouse and respond together as a team. This response includes Rescue 386, Utility 388 and Collapse Rescue Trailer 3.

The team shall not respond to a confirmed collapse with less that 5 Structural Collapse Certified Members.

ARRIVE ON SCENE

- A. First arriving company officer shall meet with the Incident commander and begin an immediate size-up of the situation.
- B. Spotting Apparatus. The first-in company should spot the apparatus in a position that it will not be affected by a secondary collapse of the structure. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and if they will be affected.
- C. Staging. The management of emergency and civilian traffic is critical from the onset of structural collapse operations.
- D. Team Leadership will assess the need for additional resources. Command should immediately begin to assess the need for additional resources. If additional resources are necessary, Command should put in an early call for them. If Command determines the need of additional or more specialized resources the request shall be for New Jersey Task Force 1. If it is later determined that the additional resources are not needed, command should return those resources to service as soon as possible.
- E. Assess the Hazards. Command should do an immediate hazard assessment or should delegate that responsibility to a **Safety** officer. Some hazards associated with structural collapse are: potential for secondary collapse, explosion with fire due to broken gas and electrical lines, falling debris, toxic atmosphere, etc.
- F. Secure the Hazards. **Safety Sector** should secure all hazards as soon as possible. This will include shutting off the utilities (i.e., gas, electrical, water). If it is not possible to

secure all hazards, Command should notify all rescue personnel operating on scene of the hazards present.

During Phase I of structural collapse operations, Command must consider the fact that if strong control of the incident is not gained quickly, it could easily escalate into an out-of-control situation. A typical structural collapse operation will have a lot of unorganized, well-intentioned efforts by civilian personnel. This situation may make the entire operation unsafe. Command must focus attention early on building a good strong Command structure that will support a campaign operation.

REMOVAL OF SURFACE VICTIMS

Initial on scene companies should be directed in rescuing victims that can be seen on the surface. Rescuers must be aware of all the physical hazards present at the scene of a structural collapse.

ESTABLISH A PERIMETER

While initial rescue of surface victims is going on, Command should establish a perimeter around the whole collapse site and keep all incoming civilian personnel out of the immediate area.

ESTABLISH VICTIM STAGING AREA

Command should designate Treatment and Transportation Sectors. An area should be established away from the hazards of the collapse to account for, treat, and transport victims.

REMOVE ALL CIVILIAN & NON-ESSENTIAL RESCUE PERSONNEL

After initial surface victim removal has been completed, Command should ensure that all personnel are removed from the collapse site. This will allow for the removal of all civilians and the re-grouping of rescue personnel so that a specific action plan can be instituted for the search and rescue of the remaining trapped victims. At this time, Command should order a PAR from sector officers. Members previously operating in the collapsed structure should be quickly debriefed as to building layout and possible location of victims.

ESTABLISH BUILDING TRIAGE TEAM

After all personnel have been removed from the collapse site, Command should establish building triage teams. This may include structural engineers and/or Fire Department personnel that are specifically trained in the recognition of structural collapse. Prior to these teams engaging in triage activity, Command shall notify them as to the specific action plan and building marking system. If there is a possibility of hazardous materials involvement, Command should assign a Haz Mat Technician to each building triage team.

BUILDING STABILIZATION TEAM

Once a building triage team has been established command should then comprise a plan to stabilize the building the search further for victims or stabilize the building for inspection.

This shall include but not limited to “T-shores” using lumber and bracing using Paratech struts. All equipment used shall be recorded by the command staff for possible reimbursement, post incident.

Shoring shall follow the FEMA guidelines.

Additional Considerations

- A. Heat. Consider rotation of crews.
- B. Cold. Consider the affect of hypothermia on victims and rescuers.
- C. Ambient Conditions. Consider the affects of rain or snow on the hazard profile.
- D. Time of Day. Consider having proper lighting on scene for night time operations.
- E. Consider the effect on family and friends; keep family informed.
- F. Consider news media; assign a P.I.O.

LEADERSHIP

Incident Commander: When called, and upon arrival, it is recognized that the Incident Commander will generally be the jurisdictional fire chief, police chief, etc. - the person who had been in-charge from the on-set of the emergency. Our team is a support resource to the incident.

Team Leadership: The South Wall Structural Collapse Team is comprised of the following.

- **Team Commander**: Has overall command of the team
- **Team Leaders**: Manages the teams actions, deployment and operations
- **Assistant Team Leaders**: Assigned to the operations branches of the incident command system such as Operations, Logistics, Medical and Planning; and sees that personnel are operating, carrying out assignments, and supervised.

DEPLOYMENT

Once the team’s assignment is provided to the leadership, the team will be briefed and assigned.

All members will be given assignments and will work in teams. Instructions and assignments are to be carried out with members being disciplined and working in a coordinated manner. Members shall not deviate or freelance from assignments.

SAFETY

Special Operations and Technical Rescue operations is inherently dangerous. All members shall wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. Additionally, members are to work, operate and function under a high level of safety. It is the responsibility of every member to be safety conscious and always maintain situational awareness. If a member sees an unsafe act, a potential danger or imminent

hazard, they are to immediately act to inform fellow team members and leadership.
Safety Officers will be assigned for every incident.