

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Special Operations**

**Special Operations, SOG 4.12**

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**BUILDING COLLAPSE**

I. Intent and Purpose

To provide guidelines for the safe handling of building collapse incidents.

II. Procedures

- 1) Give a report on conditions and include: type of occupancy, size of building, extent of damage, probable number of victims, etc., and approximate number and type of needed resources.

Note: If building collapse is from an explosion, immediately evacuate area (consider bomb squad if indicated).

- 2) Request notification of Building Services (Engineers), EMA, Gas and Electric companies to shut off utilities. EMA will be helpful in locating the necessary equipment.
- 3) Request heavy-duty equipment (cranes, bulldozers, loaders, etc.) if needed.
- 4) Request notification of an experienced demolition contractor if needed.
- 5) Request additional resources (i.e. Specialized Teams, Search Dogs, Lumber companies, red cross, etc.).

III. Operations

- 1) Operations must proceed at a pace, which will provide for the safety of those trapped as well as those directly involved in rescue efforts. Safety must come before speed.
- 2) Shoring operations may be necessary to reach trapped victims.
- 3) Obtain advice of building officials as to stability of the structure.
- 4) Request law enforcement to rope off or barricade the area, and to provide for scene security.
- 5) Consider other “specialized” resources.

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- 6) Provide emergency medical care as needed. Notify area hospitals and set up Mass Casualty as indicated.
- 7) Before returning to quarters, see that barricades are placed and signs posted to warn of unsafe conditions.