

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Special Operations

Special Operations, SOG 4.12

BUILDING COLLAPSE

1. Intent and Purpose

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

2. Procedures

- 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. If building collapse is from an explosion, immediately evacuate area (consider bomb squad if indicated).
- Request notification of Building Services (Engineers), EMA, Gas and Electric companies to shut off utilities.
- Request heavy-duty equipment (cranes, bulldozers, loaders, etc.) if needed.
- Request additional resources (i.e. Specialized Teams, Search Dogs, Lumber companies, Red Cross, demolition contractor, etc.).

3. Operations

- 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.
- Shoring operations may be necessary to reach trapped victims.
- Obtain advice of building officials as to stability of the structure.
- Request law enforcement to rope off or barricade the area, and to provide for scene security.
- Consider other “specialized” resources.
- Provide emergency medical care as needed. Notify area hospitals and set up Mass Casualty as indicated.
- Before returning to quarters, see that barricades are placed and signs posted to warn of unsafe conditions.