

# **Building Collapse**

## **CHAPTER 8.4**

**Issued: December 2010**

**Revised: January 2018**

**Submitted by: SOG Team**

**Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue**

### **PURPOSE**

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

### **POLICY**

In the event of a building collapse, be it partial or total, the following guidelines shall be adhered to.

### **PROCEDURES**

- A. Give a report on conditions including: type of occupancy, size of building, extent of damage, probable number of victims, etc. and approximate number of ambulances needed.
- B. Request notification of Building Services, LEA, and the gas and electric companies to shut off utilities. Also consider requesting GFR Technical Rescue Team or Task Force 8 if needed.
- C. Request heavy-duty equipment (cranes, bulldozers, loaders, etc.) if needed.

Request notification of an experienced demolition contractor if needed.

### **OPERATIONS**

- A. Operations must proceed at a pace that will provide for the safety of those trapped as well as those directly involved in rescue efforts.
- B. Shoring operations may be necessary to reach trapped victims.
- C. Obtain advice of building official as to stability of balance of structure.
- D. Request LEA to rope off or barricade the area, to keep spectators away.
- E. Call for Medical Examiner, if needed.
- F. Provide emergency medical care as needed.
- G. Before returning to quarters, ensure that barricades are in place and signs posted to warn of unsafe conditions.