

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.531	Effective Date:	6/12/2015
Title:	Structural Collapse	# of pages:	3
Category:	Special Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To give Fire Department members basic guidelines to recognize indications of collapse and performance guidelines should collapse occur.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Collapse Indicators

- Cracks or separations in walls, floors, ceilings and roof structures.
- Evidence of existing structural instability such as the presence of tie rods and stars that hold walls together.
- Loose bricks, blocks or stones falling from the buildings
- Deteriorated mortar between the masonry
- Walls that appear to be leaning in one direction or another
- Structural members that appear to be distorted or pulling away from walls
- Fired beneath floors that support heavy machinery of other extreme weight loads.
- Prolonged fire exposure to the structural members
- Unusual creaks and cracking sounds.

Collapse Response

- *If collapse is imminent evacuation alerts should be sounded: Radio tone, Air horns.*
- Strike additional alarms and request additional special resources (Portland R-1).
- Conduct a PAR. Get an immediate accounting of all members by individual company officers. Each officer should make visual or verbal contact with each firefighter in their command.
- Determine the area, type of and extent of collapse.
- Be aware of possible secondary collapse. Delay immediate re-entry into the structure.
- Maintain radio discipline (signal 1000).
- Start a log of activities for control purposes and reports.

Rescue Procedures

- Concentrate on victims who can be seen, heard, or are known to be in a specific location.
- Set up survey points around the collapse area to get more of a fix on the location of trapped personnel.
- Once located, established and maintain communications, if the trapped victim is able, he can help guide debris removal.
- Use rested personnel and rotate crews often.
- Bring to scene: jacks, airbags, shoring, air bottles, hose, lighting, etc
- Alert other agencies for help if needed.

- Determine the type of product that is involved, if any
- Take pictures as soon as possible.

Refer to (create hyperlink) USAR Recon Operations Guide and Structure Identification Guide

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

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Fire Chief

Large Explosion/Building Collapse SOP checklist

- _____ **Assess the present and potential situation**
- _____ **Notify the necessary agencies (i.e. police, public works, etc)**
- _____ **Establish a multi-agency on scene command post located at _____**
- _____ **Who is the On-Scene Commander _____**
- _____ **Mobilize Additional Staff**
- _____ **If required, activate EOC**
- _____ **Secure the area**
- _____ **Stabilize structure prior to emergency operations**
- _____ **Effect rescue of trapped occupants**
- _____ **Assess equipment, manpower and mutual aid needs**
- _____ **Identify special needs – heavy equipment, medical examiner, body identification unit, storage trailers, etc...**
- _____ **Reference resource listing for equipment availability and locality**
- _____ **Coordinate with electric, gas, water utilities for evaluation of services to the effected area.**
- _____ **Activate command post/radio communications systems**
- _____ **Does situation require additional evacuations**
- _____ **Inform Red Cross/Local School Department to establish shelters**
- _____ **Gather information and notify public via media, if required**
- _____ **Police Dept. Coordinate with local/County/State Police on evacuations/response, traffic control and security measures.**