

**LINE OF DUTY
DEATH REPORT
REPORT SLIDES**



F2022-02

Career Lieutenant Dies and Five Injured in Structural Collapse of Mixed-Use Occupancy during Cause and Origin Investigation - Pennsylvania



Summary

- On June 18, 2022, at approximately 01:53 hours, the Fire Communications Center (FCC) dispatched Box 443 in response to a reported fire in a third-floor apartment, with initial reports indicating potential trapped occupants.
- Multiple units responded immediately.
- Engine 2 (E2) arrived on the scene within four minutes of dispatch, reporting smoke conditions and initiating suppression efforts.

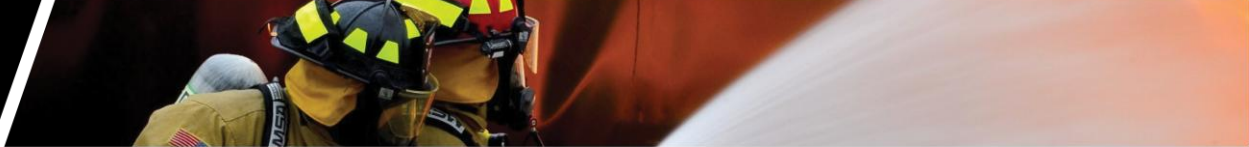


Scene photo of Side Alpha of the structure.
(Courtesy fire department)



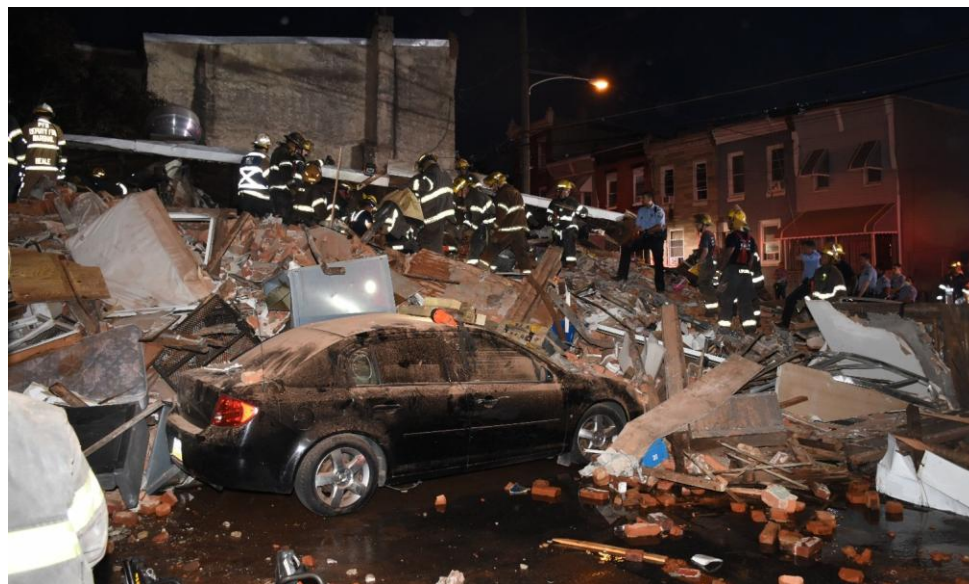
Summary

- By 02:05 hours, Incident Command (IC) escalated operations, declaring "all hands in service" to fully address the fire.
- At 02:12 hours, IC reported that primary searches were negative, the fire had been knocked down, and secondary searches were underway.
- The fire was officially placed under control at 02:18 hours, and units began clearing the scene.
- Post-fire operations continued, with Fire Marshal 21 (FM21) arriving at 02:33 hours to begin an investigation, and Licensing and Inspection (L&I) officials arriving at 03:14 hours to assess structural stability.
- Approximately 90 minutes after the initial dispatch, at 03:23 hours, the structure collapsed, trapping multiple firefighters inside.



Summary

- FCC dispatched additional suppression units, including Rescue 1, Collapse Unit 1, and additional emergency medical service (EMS) units.
- Engine 50 (E50) confirmed a full collapse at 03:27 hours and reported missing personnel.
- Battalion Chief 8 (BC8) requested a second alarm at approximately 03:30 hours to expand search and rescue operations.

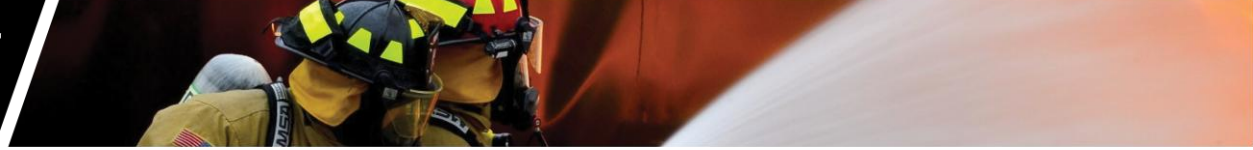


Incident scene of the Bravo side following the collapse.
(Courtesy of fire department)

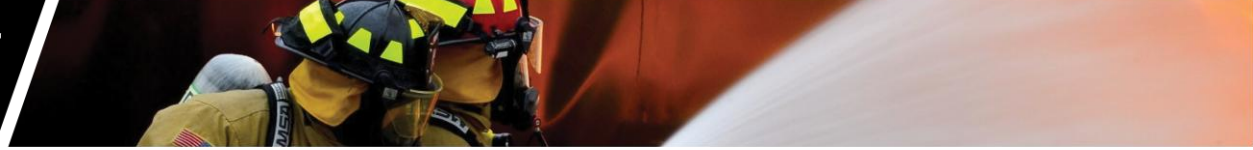


Summary

- At approximately 04:09 hours, IC confirmed contact with three trapped members, while a fourth trapped member could not be accounted for.
- Over the next several hours, intensive rescue operations occurred, with four members successfully extricated between 05:01 and 05:14 hours and transported to local hospitals.
- By 07:05 hours, IC reported that all personnel had been removed, and the final firefighter was transported at 07:11 hours.
- The IC officially marked the incident under control at 07:13 hours and began demobilizing response units.



Aftermath of building collapse. *(Courtesy of fire department)*



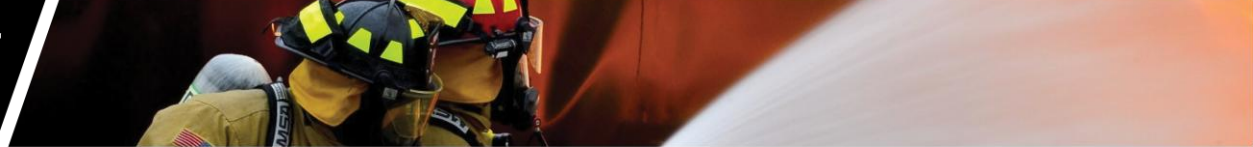
Contributing Factors

- Arson
- Change of occupancy
- Frequency of building inspections and follow-up inspections on deficiencies and failures
- Approval and documentation of structural alterations
- Age and condition of the building
- Recognized structural deficiencies



Recommendations

- Governing municipalities (federal, state, regional/county, and local) should:
 - Pursue in-depth change of occupancy inspections to ensure buildings are safe for occupancy and comply with the adopted fire and life safety codes.
 - Identify and communicate hazardous building conditions, dangers, and other hazards to the fire department.
 - Perform building inspections and follow-up inspections in a timely and efficient manner.



Recommendations

- Fire departments should:
 - Strategically deploy safety officers.
 - Train all personnel to employ risk management principles and stop-work authority.
 - Develop pre-incident plans for structures within their first due response area, including mixed-use occupancies and special hazards.
 - Designate buildings as special hazards if they are unstable, in disrepair, or aged beyond their lifespan.

Contact Us

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