

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 3019

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department that all personnel have knowledge and understanding of building construction and a high level of awareness regarding the potential for building collapse.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: June 28, 2010

Date S.O.G. Revised: May 2, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G.: June 16, 2009

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GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To reduce the risk of injury or death to all personnel involved in interior fire fighting and rescue situations.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 The criteria used to evaluate the potential risk of injury to personnel should include:

- Types of building construction and the hazard potentials of each.
- What the building is used for eg. Apartment building, warehouse, etc.
- What is the origin of the fire, the contents or the structure?

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- Fire Protection systems that exist.
- How long fire has been involved on the materials that are burning.
- Places that fire can spread such as voids, drop ceilings, balloon construction, duct and conveyor systems, horizontal open joists, and cockloft areas.
- Results of heat on unprotected steel columns, joists, nail plates and cables etc...
- Weight load of extinguishing agents during suppression activities, building content load and snow loads, etc... and their impact on building integrity.
- Consideration of buildings under construction or renovation or buildings in abandoned or dilapidated condition and the hazards they pose.
- Be aware of indicators of pending collapse or signs of building weakness.
- Possible collapse zones and sequence should it occur.

2:02 Protective measures should include the following:

- Building classification and construction type.
- Pre-incident planning where available may provide a critical risk assessment for Incident Command during decision making.
- Identification of second means of egress during interior operations.
- Establish safety and collapse zones.
- Evacuation communication procedures.
- Breathing air management.

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3:00 **Scope:**

3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.

3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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