

Report Number: 10-0000074

Report Date: 01/12/2010 21:28

Synopsis

Falling debris traps FF during fire attack.

Demographics

Department type: Combination, Mostly volunteer

Job or rank: Fire Chief

Department shift: Other : 8 hr shifts

Age: 25 - 33

Years of fire service experience: 11 - 13

Region: FEMA Region III

Service Area: Urban

Event Information

Event type: Fire emergency event: structure fire, vehicle fire, wildland fire, etc.

Event date and time: 07/18/1979 17:30

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Involved in the event

Weather at time of event: Clear and Dry

Do you think this will happen again?

What were the contributing factors?

- Situational Awareness
- Staffing

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Life threatening injury

Event Description

Units responded to a residential structure fire. Fire origin was in the basement of a 2.5 story double family dwelling with wood frame, balloon construction. I entered the basement through a rear exterior door with a charged 1.5 inch hose line. As I proceeded to advance into the basement from the "C" side to the "A" side, I heard something of a crashing sound. At this time, I was unable to move the fire hose because something was jamming it. My 3/4 alarm was sounding on my SCBA so I proceeded to exit the basement. Once I reached the inside basement door, I was unable to open it. Stored items had fallen and jammed that door in the closed position. At this time I was out of air. I was able to locate an exterior basement window. Firefighters outside the structure assisted me in crawling through the small window opening.

Lessons Learned

Never enter the structure on your own, pair up with another fire fighter. Practice May Day procedures.