

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SECTION: Rescue Operations
SUBJECT: Building Collapse
REVISED: 7/2013

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 assist in the handling of the incident.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Give a report on conditions. Include type of occupancy, size of building, extent of damage, probable number of victims, and approximate number of ambulances needed.
- B. Request gas and electric companies to shut off utilities.
- C. Request heavy duty equipment if needed.
- D. Request notification of an experienced demolition contractor if needed.

OPERATIONS:

- A. Operations must proceed at a pace which 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 law enforcement to rope off or barricade the area, to keep spectators away.
- E. Call coroner if needed.
- F. Provide emergency medical care as needed.
- G. Before returning to quarters, see that barricades are placed and signs posted to warn of unsafe conditions.