



Event Summary



13526 Collingwood Terrace

August 7th 2010

Tree on house w/ two trapped

Incident: Engine and Brush 724 were dispatched for a service call for a tree on a house. Upon arrival neighbors advised that the occupants were still in the structure.

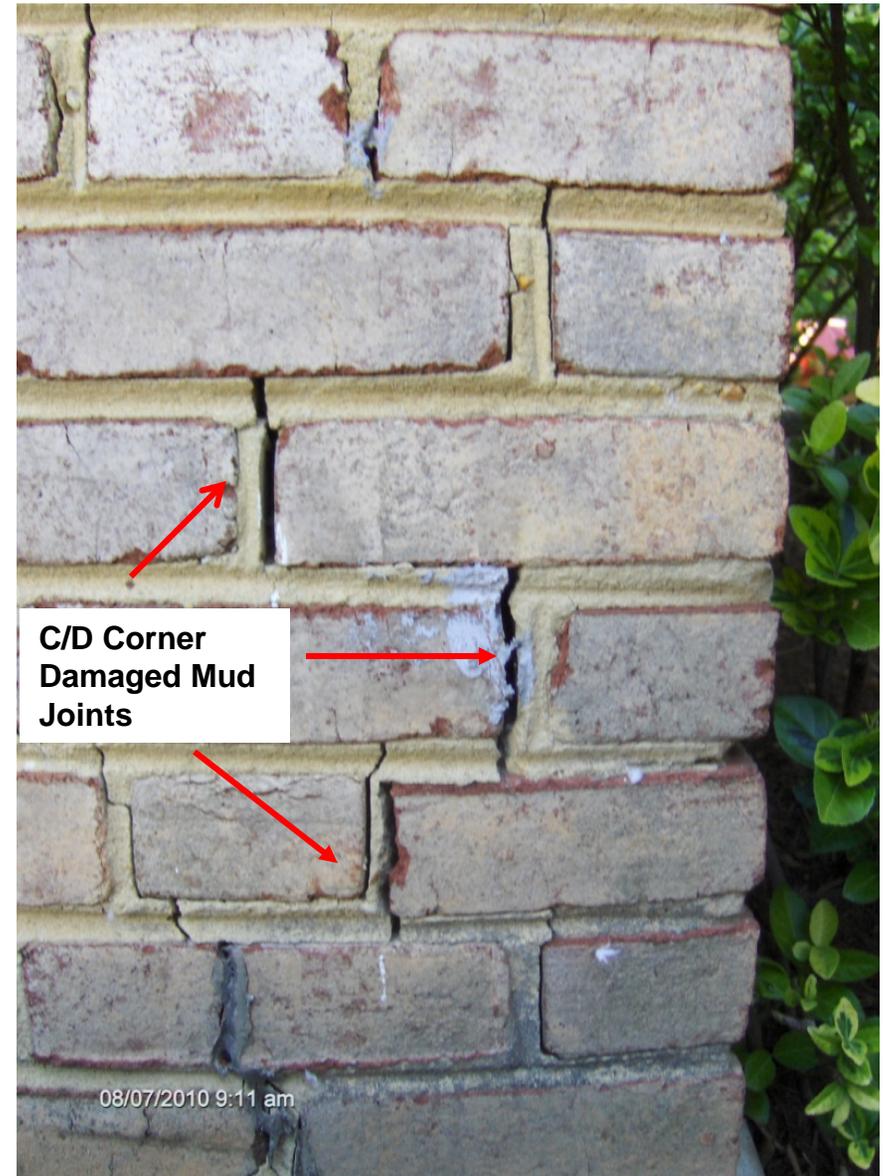
Engine 724 used verbal hailing and confirmed two trapped and requested the US&R response

Structure: The structure was a single family residence built in 1969. It consisted of two stories above ground and a finished basement. The foundation appeared to be of block construction with a brick veneer and extended up the length of the first floor. The second floor had 2x4 studs 16 inches on center for the exterior walls and was sheeted in T-111. The roof structure consisted of shingles and ½” plywood laid on 2x4 trusses that spanned the length of the house. Floor joists in the structure were 2x8 that extended from foundation wall to central support beam.

US&R Response: The US&R response included the consolidated units from Stations 25 (2 members), 29 (8 members), and 31 (7 members). Non-consolidated members consolidated and responded with a total of 9 members. US&R assets were directed to switch to 7 Hotel. While enroute, the Special Operations Chief made phone contact with Digging and Rigging which advised that a representative was on the way.

Actions: Company 24 (1 member) and company 15 arrived and began assessing the incident. It was determined that when the tree fell it compromised the electrical feed to the structure. Investigation revealed the gutters of the house as well as the car in the driveway were energized. Units from Station 25, in addition to an off duty member, arrived shortly after and began structure triage and assessment. During this time it was determined that the male resident was free but trapped in the A/D corner. Prior to the rescue leader making access to the interior of the structure, the male assisted the female occupant in self extrication. Once the rescue leader accessed the room they assisted both occupants over debris and out of the structure for medical evaluation. After the power was controlled, US&R resources remained on the scene for data collection and to determine what actions would have been taken had the victims not self extricated. The resulting preplan is included in remaining slides.

Exterior Assessment: Assessment shows tree contacted the D side directly over the window jack for the first Floor resulting in the header lifting and separation of the mud joints of the brick veneer evident on the C/D corner. Once entry was made this window would need to be shored.



Side A Exterior: The tree exited the structure on Side A over a large window on the 1st floor.

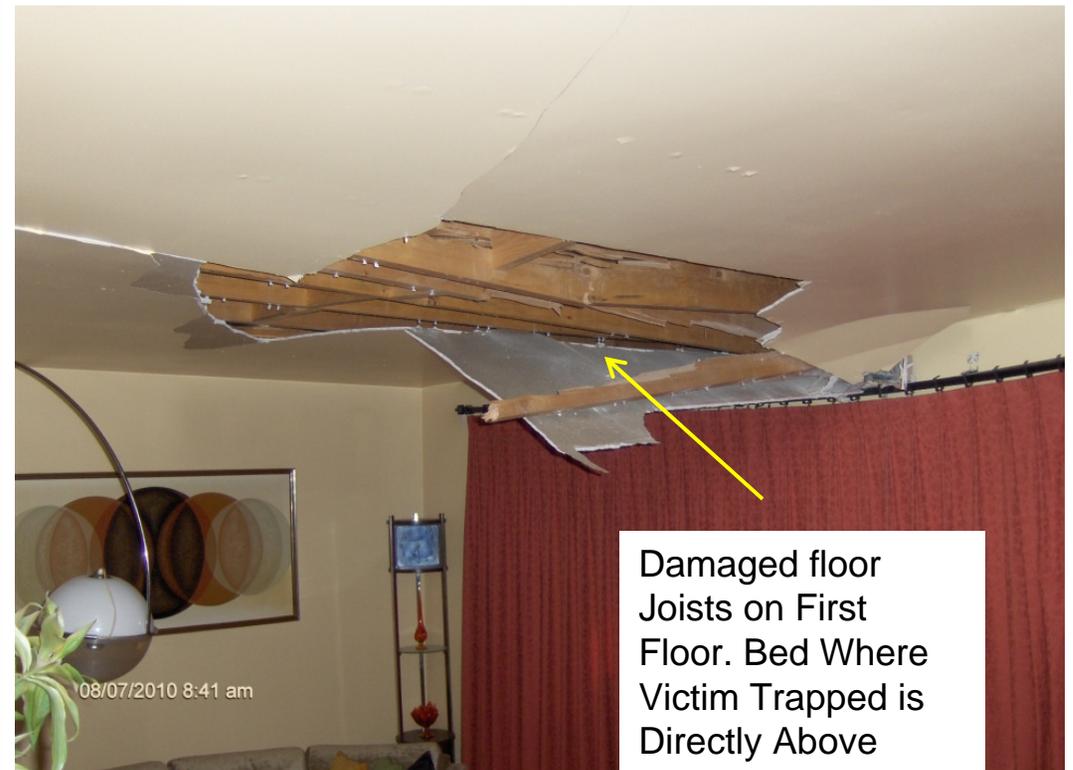
The weight of the tree deflected the window header substantially. Shoring of this window would prove difficult due to the load being applied to the vertical supports



Interior Shoring Needs: Initial shoring would consist of spot T shores on center beam on the 1st floor and basement. The Delta quadrant of the structure would need to be supported with vertical shoring. Due to the weight of the load, a three post vertical was recommended. Lace post shores were also discussed.

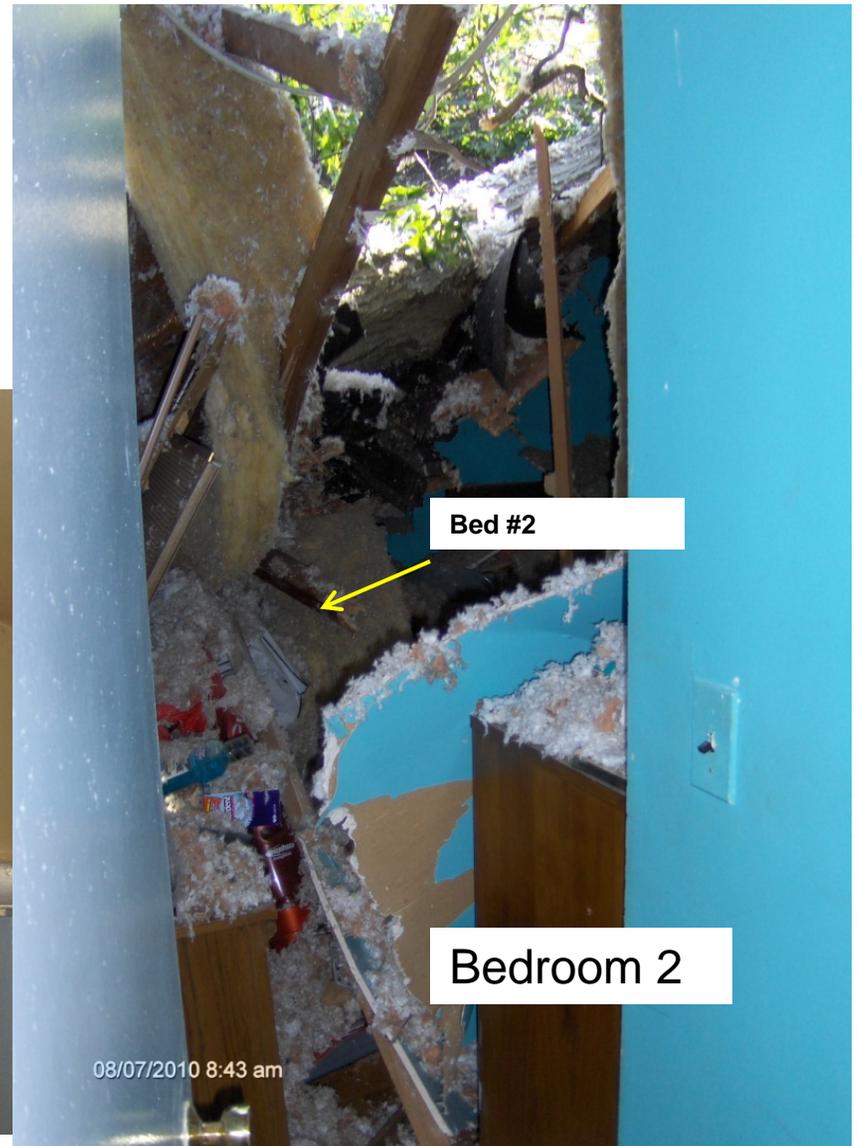
Once verticals were complete, the spot T shores should be replaced with tow three post vertical shores. Pictures of the basement were not taken, however the basement was finished with wood paneling.

Post incident there was separation and distortion evident on the Side A exterior wall. The center beam in the Basement would need to be exposed prior to shoring



Second Floor: Entry to the 2nd floor shows that the top of the center wall had been racked about 16”.

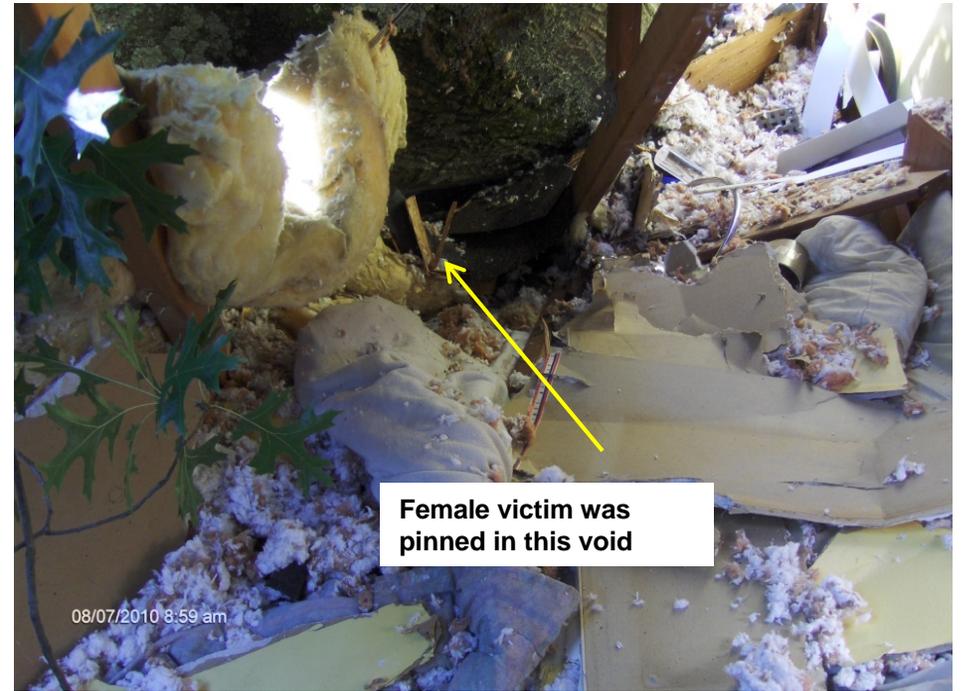
The second bedroom had substantial damage to the interior and exterior walls.



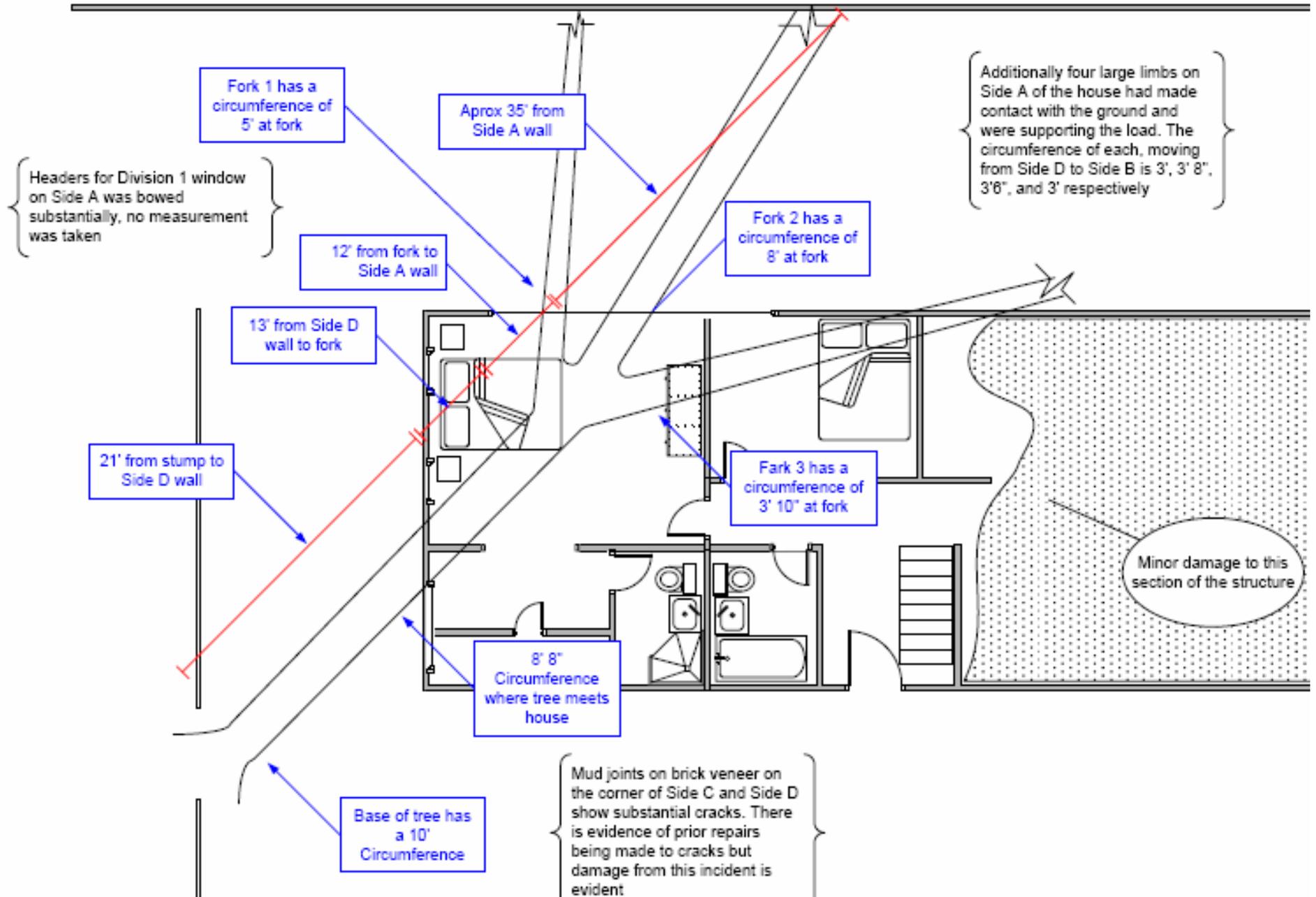
Victim Location: Victims were in bed when the tree fell and were both pinned. The male self extricated and later assisted the female in self extrication. Multiple means of removal were discussed on scene to include opening the A/D corner and removing victims via ground ladder.

The rescue leader established that removal over the tree and via the interior would be more expeditious. If victim was still pinned, the tree would need to be stabilized. Potential options for removal would be to remove the bed after the tree was stabilized.

Other options would include lifting or removal of the tree



Drawing of Tree Impact on House. Drawing by Paul Lancaster



Lessons Learned

- Dispatch occurred at 0716 hours while most stations were conducting lineup. The US&R Daily Roster was not sent until 0708, so this information was not available at lineup and not all units knew who was available to respond. The Daily Roster should be accurate and the information relayed prior to line up.
- The officer on the first arriving unit on the scene was a Rescue Specialist with SCT. This provided responding US&R assets with validated information.
- Anticipating the time and resources needed based on the report from the officer of Engine 724, the Special Operations Chief called for non-consolidated response early. Without having a team member on scene to provide reliable information the request for additional resources may have been delayed.
- The use of an alternate talk group for responding US&R assets is mandatory and can not be emphasized enough. Units could ensure what resources were enroute and the number of members responding without interfering with the ongoing operations of crews already on the scene.

Lessons Learned

- At least one off duty member responded. The original dispatch was for an unconfirmed collapse, which brings consolidated units only. Once entrapment is confirmed, non-consolidated members respond. Off duty response at this point is not only unauthorized, it is also very unprofessional. If off duty resources are required, they will be requested via normal US&R communications.
- The age and construction of the structure assisted in supporting the tree, however, it made impact at the worst possible location.
- If the victims' were still pinned, substantial shoring would have been needed. All members should frequently review shoring systems. This is imperative for members assigned to consolidated stations. On the scene of an incident is not the time to brush up on shoring skills.
- The working relationship between the team and specialty resources can not be over emphasized. Having a crane representative enroute and four Heavy Rigging Specialists on the scene would have been a great asset if the tree needed to be lifted.