



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 66-89

Effective Date:

4/12/90

TITLE:

CAVE-IN TEAM RESPONSES

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Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Regulation on:

## CAVE-IN TEAM RESPONSES

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission  
 Regulation No. 66-89  
 Authority: Code Section 21-4B(e)(3)  
 Supersedes: No prior Regulation  
 Council Review: Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15  
 Register Vol. 7, No. 1  
 Effective Date: April 12, 1990

- SUMMARY:** This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes procedures to be used by all personnel in response to known cave-in incidents.
- DEADLINES:** Montgomery County Fire Board Comment: January 31, 1990  
 Department of Fire and Rescue Services Comment: Jan. 31, 1990  
 Fire and Rescue Corporations Comment: January 31, 1990  
 Montgomery County Register Comment: January 31, 1990
- ADDRESS:** All comments pertaining to the proposed regulation must be sent to Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.
- STAFF:** For further information, you may contact Steve Davis, Executive Director, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, on 217-2461.
- BACKGROUND:** Standard Operating Procedures provide for safe and efficient fire and rescue operations. This Standard Operating Procedure establishes response criteria, standard dispatch assignments, and a procedure to be followed by fire and rescue units and personnel when responding to emergency incidents involving extrication of victims from trench cave-ins or similar accidents. The guidelines are intended to expedite the response of essential apparatus and trained personnel, as well as to assure their safety and the safety of any victim(s) during rescue operations.



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## Sec. 1. Purpose.

To establish an SOP to be used by fire and rescue personnel in conjunction with the Cave-In Team on emergency incidents involving extrication from trench cave-ins or similar accidents.

## Sec. 2. Applicability.

This regulation applies to all trained members of the Cave-In Team, both career and volunteer, and to other fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel who assist them in extrication operations.

## Sec. 3. Definitions.

- (a) Apparatus. Fire and rescue vehicles, including engines, ladder trucks, rescue squads, extrication units, brush trucks, tank wagons, ambulances and Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs), and special units.
- (b) Personnel. All on-duty fire, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel, including career, volunteer, and County Merit System employees.
- (c) Unit. Specific apparatus staffed by personnel responding to an emergency incident.

## Sec. 4. Policy.

- (a) Policy Statement. It is the policy of the Fire and Rescue Commission to dispatch the Cave-In Team and Rescue Squad 3 to requests for emergency assistance at the request of the Incident Commander, and on incidents such as the following:
  - (1) trench accidents or cave-ins (including incidents when victim is in the trench but not trapped);
  - (2) building and construction collapses;
  - (3) vehicle into a building with structural collapse; and,



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- (4) when information received by the supervisor at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) indicates the possible need for the team's expertise or equipment.
- (b) The minimum number of personnel dispatched to a confirmed incident is 12 qualified individuals.
- (c) The Cave-In Team is available for dispatch to surrounding jurisdictions upon request.
- Sec. 5. Procedure.**
- (a) Standard Response. The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) will dispatch the following units as a standard response for the above-listed incidents:
- One Engine
  - One Truck
  - One Rescue Squad
  - One Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and an ambulance if it is closer
  - One Command Officer
  - One Cave-In Unit and Rescue Squad 3
  - Duty EMS Officer
  - Montgomery County Police - Code 3
- (b) Utilities. ECC will notify all affected utilities (i.e., Washington Gas Light, WSSC, PEPCO, Baltimore Gas and Electric) to facilitate a timely response to assist in stabilization of the scene.
- (c) Dispatch. The Montgomery and Fairfax County Cave-In Teams are considered primary response units. The Prince George's County unit will be considered an adjunct when it is closer but this unit will not be dispatched alone. To dispatch the Montgomery County Cave-In Team, ECC will sound the tones to alert Level 3/3 and Level 8/3, in addition to normal applicable response procedures.



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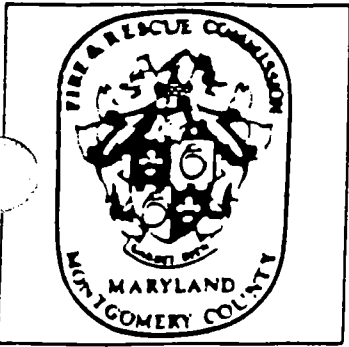
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- (2) The initial response will include on-duty career and volunteer personnel, including two Cave-In Team officers (Trench Sector and Safety Sector).
- (3) When a unit on the scene has confirmed an actual entrapment, ECC will sound level 8/3 tones a second time and additional trained personnel may respond.
- (d) Rescue Squad 3. Rescue Squad 3 will be dispatched as part of the Cave-In Team response to allow adequate equipment and personnel to implement a planned approach to the incident.
  - (1) Equipment. Rescue Squad 3 carries the specialized atmospheric monitoring equipment, as well as specialized patient removal equipment for use in confined spaces.
  - (2) Staffing. In addition to equipment, Rescue Squad 3 will transport properly trained Cave-In Team personnel.
- (e) Support. If Rescue Squad 3 is unavailable at the time of dispatch, ECC will dispatch an engine or truck from the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department to provide additional trained personnel. The decision as to which unit is dispatched will be at the discretion of the Cave-In Officer In Charge.
- (f) Team SOPs. The Cave-In Team must develop and maintain Standard Operating Procedures for use by team members at the scene of emergency incidents.

## Sec. 6. Severability.

If a court of final appeal holds that any part of this regulation is invalid, that ruling does not affect the validity of other parts of the regulation.



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**Sec. 7. Effective Date.**

This regulation is effective 30 days after Council adoption or 90 days after Council receipt if the Council takes no action within 60 days of its receipt.

Attest:

Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman  
Fire and Rescue Commission

1260d rev 12/15/89 bm

3-15-90

Date

Approved as to form and legality  
Montgomery County, Md. County Attorney's Office

By:

12/20/89