

**Case 201. 38-year-old fire fighter died when he was pinned by debris from a roof collapse.**

A 38-year-old male fire fighter died when he was pinned by debris from a roof collapse. The fire scene was an abandoned, two-story with a dormer, single-family dwelling. After the fire was extinguished, a 4-member fire fighter team, one of whom was the decedent, entered the structure with a 2-inch hose line and proceeded up the stairway to the second floor to check for vagrants and any un-extinguished embers/fires. Another responding fire fighter who had entered through the dormer, was already on the second floor. Upon arriving on the second floor, the crew found heavy steam and light smoke conditions, with several small areas that were still flame evident. One member of the crew extinguished these areas and then began to fog out the area by changing the nozzle to a fog pattern to blow the smoke out a nearby window to allow for better vision and to find any nests of embers. It was during this time that the walls and dormer roof collapsed. The falling debris struck all five of the fire fighters on the second floor. It was determined that the decedent was still inside the structure. The fire fighters had to search for the decedent because his PASS device was not operational. Unable to lift the debris from the floor, they used a saw to cut several roof beams and eventually found the decedent pinned under the debris. This process took approximately five minutes. After removing him from the under the debris pile, CPR was initiated and he was taken by the fire fighters and EMS personnel to a local hospital where he was declared dead. A day after the incident, the fire department examined the structure. They found that on the second floor there was a lack of proper support for the roof section that could not have been seen with the smoke. The second floor walls were a continuance of the first floor wall studs and stopped approximately 3-feet above the second floor floorboards. A plate was nailed to the top plate of those studs and the windows and remaining wall sections were formed. The roof rafters (2x6) were then attached at the top of the wall plate and all remaining roof coverage was then attached which included roof boards, cedar shake shingles and two layers of asbestos shingles.

At the conclusion of its investigation, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation:

**SERIOUS:**

**FIREFIGHTING, PART 74, RULE 7440.**

Provide and enforce the use of a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device to each employee utilizing a self-contained breathing apparatus while engaged in structural fire fighting operations.

Deceased fire fighter became entrapped and engulfed when the walls and roof structure fell atop of him, his PASS device did not activate to alert to his whereabouts.