



Newly Released

NIOSH FF Fatality Report 2018-06

On March 22, 2018, Firefighter Ivan Flanscha and Firefighter Zachary Anthony of the York (PA) Fire Department died in the line of duty following a structure collapse while working to extinguish hot spots following a structure fire the previous day.

On March 21, companies were dispatched at 1616 hours for a report of a structure fire. Upon arrival heavy smoke was showing from the **large Type IV (heavy timber) construction mill building that was under renovation**. After an initial interior attack, operations changed to a defensive attack. **Approximately 2 hours into the incident cracks began to form in the Side B exterior wall and a large portion of the structure collapsed (Sides B, C, & D)**. Firefighters from 5 departments remained on scene overnight to extinguish the fire.

The next morning, March 22, after an inspection, a decision was made to use an elevated aerial platform to send a hose line crew onto the 3rd & 4th floors to extinguish the remaining hot spots. Truck 99-1 was repositioned at the Side A/D corner so that fire fighters, supervised by the Incident Commander (located in the elevated platform), could access the 4th floor. **At approximately 1515 hours, a collapse occurred that dropped three Firefighters and the shift commander (Assistant Chief) to the ground.**

The Incident Commander, located in the bucket of Truck 99-1 immediately radioed a **MAYDAY** and requested additional resources. Fire fighters worked for 29 minutes to free the four Firefighters trapped under the debris. Firefighters Flanscha and Anthony received fatal injuries in the collapse while the Assistant Chief and the fourth fire fighter were seriously injured.



Key Contributing Factors

- Building under renovation with inactive sprinkler system
- Long-burning deep-seater fire could not be reached by exterior master streams
- Previous partial structure collapse
- Firefighters entered collapse zone following defensive operations
- Inadequate risk versus gain analysis

Read the entire report at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201806.pdf>