



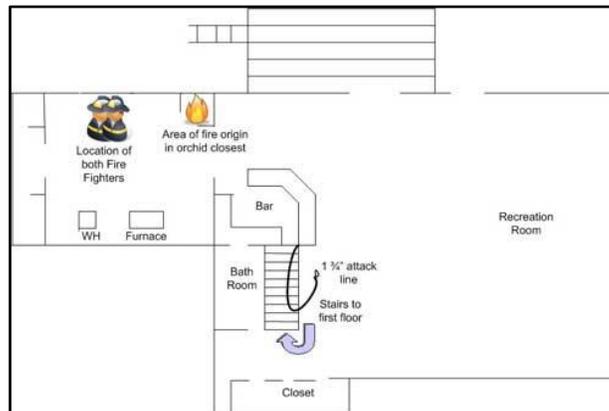
## NIOSH FF Fatality Report 2008-09

On April 4, 2008 Captain Robin Zang Broxterman and Firefighter Brian Schira of the Colerain Township (OH) Fire Department died in the line of duty when a section of floor collapsed and trapped them in the basement during a residential structure fire.

At 0611 hours, **an automatic alarm** was dispatched. Dispatch upgraded it to a Working Fire at 0620. At 0623, Engine 102 with both the Captain and Firefighter arrived first on scene. The homeowner advised that the fire was in the basement and everyone was out. With moderate smoke showing, Captain Broxterman and FF Schira entered the residence through the front door with a 1 3/4" hoseline. A second fire fighter joined them at the basement stairs doorway. After the Captain called for water several times, the line was charged and both fire fighters took the hoseline to the bottom of the stairs. The 2nd firefighter went back up the stairs to pull more hose at the front door. As he returned to the basement stairway, he saw the Captain at the top of the stairs, trying to use her radio and telling him to get out.

A Captain from the 2<sup>nd</sup> arriving engine noticed the smoke getting black, heavy, and pushing out the front door and requested the IC to evacuate the interior crew. The 2<sup>nd</sup> firefighter exited the structure alone. The IC made several attempts to contact the interior crew with no response. At 0637 hours, the IC sent out a **"MAYDAY."** A RIT team followed the hoseline through the front door and down to the basement. Returning to the first floor, they noticed a collapsed section of floor and went to investigate the debris in that area of the basement.

At 0708 hours, Captain Broxterman was found near a corner of the basement. At 0729 hours, after removing debris from around her, FF Schira was located underneath her and some additional debris.



### Key Contributing Factors

- Initial 360-degree sizeup incomplete
- Likely disorientation of victims effecting key survival skills
- Radio communication problems
- Well-involved basement fire before the fire department's arrival
- Potential fire growth from natural gas utilities

Read the entire report at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face200809.pdf>