

Everglades Hotel Building Implosion

After-Action Report



*South Florida
Urban Search & Rescue
Task Force 2*

January 23rd 2005

*City of Miami Department of Fire Rescue
Sponsoring Agency*

Executive Summary

The Everglades Hotel, a Miami institution since 1926 was being imploded on January 23rd 2005 to make room for a Condominium Complex. This made for an outstanding opportunity to hold a Mobilization/Hands-On Drill for Florida Task Force 2. The entire drill was filmed by the Discovery Channel with the intent of making a documentary about Federal Urban Search and Rescue Teams and the Fire and Emergency Training Network (FETN) with the intent of making a documentary on “Super Drills”. The drill also afforded an opportunity for both the Technical Rescue Team and the Haz-Mat Team from the City of Miami (Sponsoring Agency) to interact with Florida Task Force 2.

Introduction

Florida task Force 2 accepted the challenge of mobilizing the Team on short notice and created both a mobilization exercise and a hands-on drill experience for all members that attended.

Chronology

0600 – 0800 – Check-In



Personnel were directed to report to the Florida task Force 2 USAR Warehouse. Check-In was accomplished by having personnel complete host of forms intended to bring responding personnel’s records up-to-date followed by a modified medical check-in. Personnel were then shuttled to the implosion site which was located four miles away.



08:00 - Building Implosion

USAR forward group on site, City of Miami TRT and Haz-Mat leave stations.

09:00 - Command established

- *Briefing and Objectives were discussed with USAR group*



- *The forward USAR group including engineers evaluated and established safe working areas for Technical Rescue Teams and Florida Task Force 2.*
- *Specific work stations and objectives were identified by Command as delineated in the workstations and rotations document*



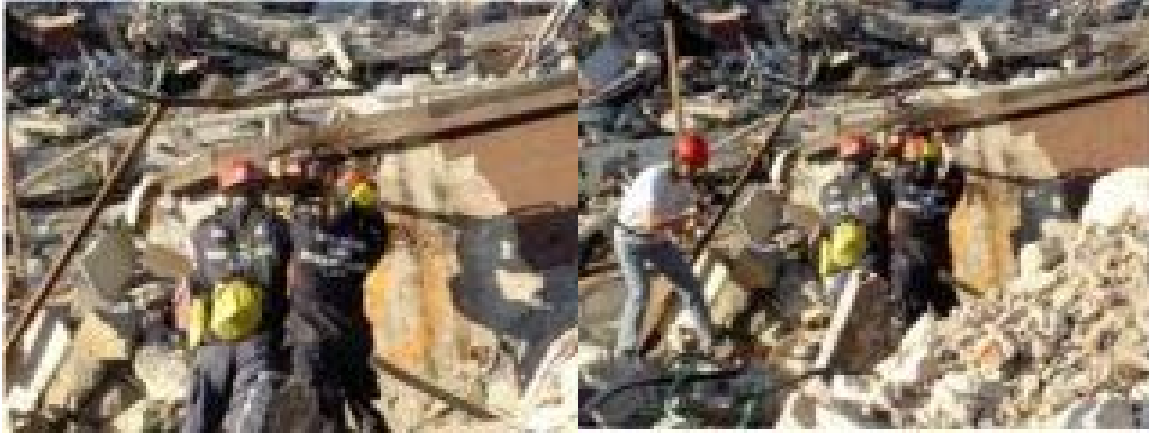
- *Team was divided into two components; one being the Rescue Component made up of four Rescue Squads which were rotated through four work station; (Breaching and Breaking, Cutting and Burning, Lifting and Moving, and Crane Operations; the other was the Search Component which included the Search Team managers and the Canines which worked on scenarios of increasing difficulty.*

1200-1300 – All participants break for Lunch

1300 – Squad Rotations and Scenarios continued.



1500 – Entire Team was re-united to complete two Search and Rescue Scenarios to “put it all together”.



1700 – Comprehensive Drills continued

1800 – Dinner

1900 - 2200

- *Team was demobilized*
- *Equipment was cleaned and rehabbed*
- *Team Debriefing was conducted*

2200 – Demobilization

- *Equipment was returned to warehouse*

Evaluation

A formal debriefing was held on that same evening at the conclusion of the drill.

All managers were generally satisfied with the deployment with the following comments, observations and recommendations:

- *Callout was accomplished by paging and e-mailing of personnel, this was followed up by an e-mail with a complete roster. Personnel on the roster were asked to respond and if no response was received, a follow up phone call was made. The method worked well because the team assembled quickly due to the “pre-rostering”.*

Lessons Learned

Statement of issue – *FEMA was notified about the drill outside of the customary time period.*

Background discussion – Short notice was given to the Team of the timetable for the implosion. A rare opportunity for both Mobilization and drill was hard to pass up.

Recommended action – Work to gain earlier notification of training opportunities.

Assigned responsibility – Program Manager, Task Force Leader.

Statement of issue – Medical Check in is a tedious time consuming event.

Background discussion – Medical Check-In always seems to be the event that creates a bottleneck caused by needlessly long and repetitive forms.

Recommended action – Work to streamline process specially the forms.

Assigned responsibility – Program Manager, Task Force Leader.

Completed by:

Juan R. Mestas
Task Force Leader
Florida Task Force 2