1. PURPOSE: To give Fire Department members basic guidelines to recognize indications of collapse and performance guidelines should collapse occur.

2. PROCEDURES:
   **Collapse Indicators**
   - Cracks or separations in walls, floors, ceilings and roof structures.
   - Evidence of existing structural instability such as the presence of tie rods and stars that hold walls together.
   - Loose bricks, blocks or stones falling from the buildings.
   - Deteriorated mortar between the masonry.
   - Walls that appear to be leaning in one direction or another.
   - Structural members that appear to be distorted or pulling away from walls.
   - Fired beneath floors that support heavy machinery of other extreme weight loads.
   - Prolonged fire exposure to the structural members.
   - Unusual creaks and cracking sounds.

   **Collapse Response**
   - If collapse is imminent evacuation alerts should be sounded: Radio tone, Air horns.
   - Strike additional alarms and request additional special resources (Portland R-1).
   - Conduct a PAR. Get an immediate accounting of all members by individual company officers. Each officer should make visual or verbal contact with each firefighter in their command.
   - Determine the area, type of and extent of collapse.
   - Be aware of possible secondary collapse. Delay immediate re-entry into the structure.
   - Maintain radio discipline (signal 1000).
   - Start a log of activities for control purposes and reports.

   **Rescue Procedures**
   - Concentrate on victims who can be seen, heard, or are known to be in a specific location.
   - Set up survey points around the collapse area to get more of a fix on the location of trapped personnel.
   - Once located, established and maintain communications, if the trapped victim is able, he can help guide debris removal.
   - Use rested personnel and rotate crews often.
   - Bring to scene: jacks, airbags, shoring, air bottles, hose, lighting, etc.
   - Alert other agencies for help if needed.
• Determine the type of product that is involved, if any
• Take pictures as soon as possible.

Refer to (create hyperlink) USAR Recon Operations Guide and Structure Identification Guide

3. REFERENCES:
• None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief
Large Explosion/Building Collapse SOP checklist

___  Assess the present and potential situation

___  Notify the necessary agencies (i.e. police, public works, etc)

___  Establish a multi-agency on scene command post located at ________

___  Who is the On-Scene Commander ____________________________

___  Mobilize Additional Staff

___  If required, activate EOC

___  Secure the area

___  Stabilize structure prior to emergency operations

___  Effect rescue of trapped occupants

___  Assess equipment, manpower and mutual aid needs

___  Identify special needs – heavy equipment, medical examiner, body identification unit, storage trailers, etc…

___  Reference resource listing for equipment availability and locality

___  Coordinate with electric, gas, water utilities for evaluation of services to the effected area.

___  Activate command post/radio communications systems

___  Does situation require additional evacuations

___  Inform Red Cross/Local School Department to establish shelters

___  Gather information and notify public via media, if required

___  Police Dept. Coordinate with local/County/State Police on evacuations/response, traffic control and security measures.