

Appendix G

CDF/SLO County FD Technical Rescue Team Report

San Simeon Earthquake “Paso Branch” CASLU009294

Post-Incident review and recommendations on Urban Search & Rescue Operations
By CDF/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Technical Rescue Team (TRT)



Los Angeles Times / Spencer Weiner

Background

The CDF/SLO County Fire Technical Rescue Team is comprised of 13 personnel including Battalion Chief Phill Veneris as the team coordinator. The team is comprised of various ranks of CDF/County and two local agency personnel. The TRT has responded to over 100 technical rescue type incidents since its inception in 1998.

Initial Response

ECC text paged TRT members at 1217 hrs. on Dec.22 to respond to structural collapse at the House of Bread at 12th and Park St. in Paso Robles. Team member Steve Crawford was first in to be assigned “Shoring Group” by Incident Commander Kevin Taylor. Team members, Tom Swanson, Laurie Halas, and John Owens arrived to meet the objectives of shoring the Pan Jewelers roof at the Ann’s clothing store in a coordinated effort with the “Rescue Group”. A lumber staging area and cutting table was established at 13th and Park St. to support the shoring operation.

Key Points

1. Update ECC SOG to include a pre-alert dispatch (in the blind) for any TRT response on the Dispatch Frequency to back-up cell/alpha paging system which was down for up to one hour after initial earthquake.

2. Process immediate resource order to support objectives. I.e. request local OES Type 3 USAR engines and/or rescues to eliminate delay from attaining basic tools from nearby retail stores.

Key Reminders “Lessons Learned”

1. Designate cutting area leader (“construction” experience a plus) early in the incident to construct cutting table and attain logistical support
2. Use 4” X 4” lumber as sole plates for stability
3. Keep vertical shores as straight as possible
4. Don’t nail wedge sets in shoring, may need to tighten with time
5. Have additional 10 ¼” saw and generator available close to shoring construction for minor cut adjustments
6. Put plumb bob (or makeshift one) on shoring to monitor any movement and date/time stamp with spray paint, etc.
7. Have a designated “RIC” for shoring teams in each geographic area

Operational Equipment needed each site or incident

1. Multiple generators with fuel cans and extension cords
2. 10 ¼” circular saws (minimum of 2)
3. 2 Nail guns w/ compressors (1 w/ 8d nails-gussets and 1 w/ 16d nails-shores)
4. Hilti-tool or Ramset and/or rotary drill hammer and rebar to anchor sole plates into concrete to prevent shifting/failure
5. Metal or wood cutting angle templates for cutting area
6. Searchcam device w/ gas-powered breaching tool or rotary drill hammer capable of drilling 1 ½” to 2” holes through concrete
7. “A-frame” utility ladders for building shoring
8. Shoring field guide and laminated cheat sheets for each team member
9. Multiple scoop and flat head shovels and 5 gallon buckets
10. Document operations with photos
11. Hand-held canister type air horns for portability (3 blasts for evacuations)

Meeting Response / Command objectives on future incidents

1. Initiate priority release of on-duty team members for incident response. Several TRT members were on duty and committed to fire engines and therefore unavailable for deployment.
2. Increase number of team personnel to be capable of staffing an OES Type 1 USAR Company (2 crews of 6, 12 personnel w/ S/T Leader and 2 USAR Medium Rescues). To insure this ability 24/7, the team roster should be increased to 18 from its current 13. We recommend that CDF/SLO County Fire maintain its leadership role as team manager, increase participation of CDF/SLO County to a total of 13 personnel from 11, and increase local government personnel to 5 from 2.
3. The county fire agencies should consider a long-term goal of modeling the team similar to Ventura and Marin County Fire USAR teams which are an OES Regional USAR Task Force with 29 personnel separate of the eight FEMA USAR teams in California.

4. The team members should be trained to meet the USAR Type 1 standards.
5. We recommend that there be a minimum of 4 USAR Type 2 Medium Rescues in the county and available for TRT use throughout the county.
6. We recommend that the county fire agencies plan for and obtain at least 1 USAR Type 1 Heavy Rescue for use throughout the county.
7. When selecting new team personnel, perform a targeted recruitment of multi-disciplinary trained personnel such as paramedic, Hazardous Materials Technicians/Specialists, technical experts such as Structural Specialists, Heavy Equipment Specialists, etc... in addition to technical rescue requirements.
8. Consider ordering a TRT member to serve as an Assistant S/T Leader "Tech Spec" for OES Engine Strike Team assignments to any USAR type incident.
9. Consider changing the name of the Technical Rescue Team-TRT to Urban Search & Rescue-USAR team to become consistent with terminology among the OES, FEMA, Firescope and ICS systems. Current OES and FEMA USAR teams include all technical rescue disciplines and water rescue.
10. Integrate local agencies proposals and needs while seeking the grant funding for a San Luis Obispo Regional OES Heavy Rescue vehicle and complement to support local USAR team personnel at an incident.
11. Move forward on purchasing and complementing OES Type II Medium Rescues in the North (Rescue 30) and South (Rescue 21) county. Complement Rescue 10, 20, 33, and 64 to the OES Type 3 Light level inventory. Expedite the response of current and proposed rescues to incidents.
12. Enable entire SFM RS1/Trench Rescue/Confines Space Operations cache in one of the training bureau's new trailer's to be available for incident response and support. Trailer could be kept at a station and maintained/responded by that station instead of at Camp SLO for a quicker response. The PCF Company assigned to the station should be given priority training to meet the needs of the trailer. Trailer should have dept. lettering on sides with a "USAR" identifier.
13. Consider the requirement of Rescue Systems 1 certification for all engine personnel within the unit. RS1 skills are currently a requirement within the CSFM Firefighter 1 check-off sheet. Add a RS1 course into the spring training schedule in addition to the fall course to meet these needs.
14. Consider the requirement of Trench Rescue certification for all engine personnel within the unit.
15. Consider the requirement of maintaining/upgrading all JAC employees' Confined Space Operations training received at Lone to SFM Confined Space Ops.
16. Provide target training to stations and PCF companies for USAR incidents boat operations, and SFM Rapid Intervention Crew.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needs

1. Team compliance with NFPA 1951 "Protective ensemble for USAR Operations"
2. Consider purchasing "Pacific" light helmets for use in all USAR, rope, confined space and trench rescue operations -
3. Dust Masks (issue and complement Rescues with large stock)
4. Knee pads
5. Intrinsically safe headlamps (Pelican Heads-Up headlamp with rubber strap)

6. Determine a single helmet color to be worn by all team members with resource ID such as "CDF/SLO County Fire" on sides of helmet
7. TRT or USAR lettering on back of jumpsuits for resource ID and reflective striping for increased visibility.
8. Class III Full-Body Harnesses (to meet CAL-OSHA Title 8 regulations for confined space and trench rescue incidents)