

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – DO THIS NOW

### DO STEPS:

\_\_\_ Call 9-1-1

\_\_\_ Are there casualties? If yes, engage in rescue operations if safe and appropriate.

\_\_\_ Secure scene/incident perimeter for investigators. Do not touch or move anything.

### “TALK” STEPS:

\_\_\_ Call Madison Batt at TEC immediately (Mobile phone: 206-619-4886)

\_\_\_ Are there in-house personnel available to assist in the investigation?

### FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE

There are five distinct phases of recovery following a structural collapse:

- Phase 1: Arrival on scene. Assess for casualties.
- Phase 2: Pre-rescue operations
- Phase 3: Rescue operations
- Phase 4: Secure scene/incident perimeter for investigators. Do not touch or move anything.
- Phase 5: Selected debris removal
- Phase 6: Debris removal and termination

NON-EMERGENCY or EMERGENCY IS CONTAINED – DO THIS NEXT

DO STEPS:

- Did you make an overall site examination to evaluate the scope and nature of the failure?
- Have you protected the evidence so that it can be properly documented?
- Have you completed documenting the site of the failure using photographs, video tapes, sketches, or drawings?
- Have you reviewed the contract documents, inspection reports, project schedules, project correspondence, weather records, and any other related documents which reflect the history and life of the structure?
- Have you examined all violations of safety procedures that may have caused the failure?
- Have you reviewed the structural design and either performed or arranged for an independent structural analysis to determine what behavior would have to be anticipated for the structure?
- Have you examined and recorded deviations from the design?
- Have you reviewed U.S. Weather Bureau records to log the weather during the period to be investigated?

“TALK” STEPS:

- Have you generated as many hypotheses of causes of failure as can be developed based on past records of similar failures?
- Was there unconventional use of materials or unusual construction erection techniques?
- Was there a curtailment, even partial, of on-site construction by the design professionals?

FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Professional investigators will have a far more detailed checklist than what is presented here. The main requirement now is for you—the owner or first responding technical staff—to have foreknowledge about the process to come. Preparation will allow the process of forensic engineering to proceed swiftly and reach accurate technical conclusions.