

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

THE RIDGE INCIDENT



Captain Garrett Ramos
Father, Husband and Son
1983-2021

SUMMARY:

Lt. Garrett Ramos was operating at a residential fire when a floor collapsed and he fell into the basement. Lt. Ramos immediately called a mayday, but it took over thirty minutes before he was identified as missing. Once located, Lt. Ramos was out of air and unresponsive. It took three attempts to successfully remove him from the basement. He was pronounced dead early the next morning.

DEFENSES IDENTIFIED BY IL OSHA INVESTIGATION:

Interior Firefighters:

- Perform radio check prior to entry.
- Teams enter together, stay together, exit together.
- Say your name when calling mayday, repeat until command confirms.

Command Team Members:

- Follow and enforce policies.
- Are assertive and speak up if something isn't right.
- Have clear direction on duties.
- Have an individual responsibility for safety.
- Don't assume someone else is doing it; verify, confirm.

Fire Department Leaders:

- Ensure defenses identified by IL OSHA are captured in incident command, accountability, and mayday policies.
- Ensure clear and defined strategies and tactics for basement fires.
- Ensure departments that frequently operate together work under common fireground policies and frequently train together.

Rapid Intervention Teams:

- Immediately provide a downed firefighter with breathing air.
- One member of RIT is assigned as "air" firefighter.

Incident Commanders:

- Check for basement (fire) at size up before sending teams in.
- Communicate basement status to all personnel.
- Record "on air" times of teams upon entry.
- Assess strategy after events (no life safety hazard, collapse, mayday, 20m marks). Go defensive when risk outweighs reward.
- PAR includes 100% individual accountability and location of all in the hazard zone.
- Perform extensive verification before declaring a fire under control.
- Mayday caller is 100% identified and located before terminating mayday.

LESSONS IDENTIFIED. LESSONS LEARNED.

Download the full report here:



INCIDENT
REPORT

