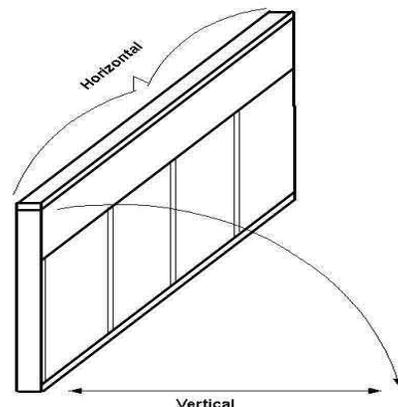


FF Survival Tips #3- Collapse Zones

Tips to Keep Firefighters Alive-Collapse Zone Safety

- Whenever there is a danger of a wall collapse, an officer in command must establish a collapse danger zone. A collapse danger zone should be equal to the height of the unstable wall plus half that height.
- Stay out of this zone, mark the distance with barricade tape or other visual identification, post a watch if you must.
- Do not forget to include the entire horizontal span of the unstable wall in the establishment of your collapse zone.
- Sometimes the zone will make effective stream reach impossible. Consider flanking or use of aerial streams instead of putting people in the zone. Use the corners.
- Aerial apparatus should not operate their ladders, towers, etc. in the collapse zone. Consider the zone as an arc that nothing should penetrate. Ladders should be positioned above the arc or outside of it in these situations. At a minimum, place the tip no closer than the length of the height of the wall above it.
- Types of walls will provide indication of the stability of the wall. A free-standing wall is least stable and a non-bearing wall is more stable.
- Watch the collapse indicator signs, smoke from mortar joints, bowing walls, other horizontal collapse in roof or other areas.



Adapted from Vincent Dunn:

www.vincentdunn.com
July-Sept 2005 Newsletter
60 Ways Firefighters Live