



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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BATTALION 1

DRAFT

TO: Richard Fuerch Division 1 Commander
FROM: William Siegel Battalion Chief, B1
DATE: March 22, 2005
SUBJECT: On-site inspection of the Deutsche Bank building.

The purpose of this on-site inspection was to confirm the status of the building services and to gather information that can be used to formulate standard operating procedures for this particular building. This report follows the original report of January 15, 2005 and a follow up report of February 21, 2005. Changes and additions are highlighted in bold.

Status of the building services as of March 22, 2005.

Gas Service

Service to the building has been shut off in the basement. Not at the street valve. The system has been purged.

Standpipe System

The standpipe system is in service as a dry system. The standpipe is located in the "A" stairwell. There is a manually operated fire pump for the standpipe system. The pump is located in the basement just under the loading ramp. The basement area is considered "clean."

Fire Alarm System

This system is out of service. There is a 24 hour a day fire watch.

Sprinkler System

The sprinkler system is out of service.

Elevators

There are three freight elevators in service. Security personnel are trained to operate these elevators. Elevator number 24 operates from a "clean" area in the basement and opens on to clean landings on each floor. Elevator number 26 operates on the 1620 key and goes to all floors, in order to leave the "clean area" of the elevator landing members would have to remove plywood security walls. The other two elevators stop at landings that are not protected or clean.

Stairwells

There are two "clean" stairwells to the upper floors. Both stairwells are illuminated and can be accessed from the basement area. The stairwells open in clean areas on each floor.

Electrical System

There is electric supplied to the basement, the stairwells and service to the individual floors.

Loading Dock

The security desk is located at the loading dock. There are security personnel on duty 24 hours a day at the loading dock. They have handie-talkie communications with the fire watch. The loading dock area is "clean" and large enough for a staging area in inclement weather.

Basement Construction Office

This "clean area" has access to the elevators and stairwells. It is well lit and large enough for a command post or staging area. The construction office has telephones and on week days is staffed by the construction superintendent. There is a decontamination shower on this floor.

Status of the Demolition

There is no date set for the abatement/demolition to start. There are some problems with the abatement procedure approval so this date seems to be unrealistic. Office furniture, supplies and partition walls have been removed and the fire load is considered low. Plywood used to isolate the contaminated area presents an additional fire load. All demolition activities will be considered and treated as an "abatement" procedure. Debris will be packaged and removed from each floor in seal bags. In the contaminated areas workers wear a 7700 series filter mask. The concern is "particulate dust" which is a combination of asbestos and metal dust.

Mold

The original mold problem was addressed when the building was cleaned. There are however several water leaks that have caused a second mold problem. Mold does not grow in the winter. Unless the leaks are repaired the mold problem will return in the spring. Progress has been made on sealing up the leaks and removal of standing water from the standpipe tests.

Items to consider in forming SOP's.

The major concern is airborne contaminants that attack the respiratory system. This problem can be eliminated by using SCBA. Members can travel from floor to floor in the stairwell or elevator. The use of SCBA will be required when members leave the stairwell or elevator lobby area and enter the contaminated area.

For CFR-D responses a Battalion Chief, the Haz/Mat Battalion, a CFR-D Engine, Squad 18 and a Haz/Tech EMS unit should respond to the loading dock area. Members and victims operating outside of the clean area will require decontamination before leaving the building. Members leaving the clean area should be required to use SCBA. There is a decon shower in the basement with access from the elevators and stairwells.

For fire responses companies should respond to the loading dock area. Units should contact the security personnel at the loading dock for the exact location of the incident. A ladder

Page 3

company officer and two members should leave the basement area and use the stairwell or elevator to travel to a floor below the location. The ladder company officer should conduct a search and evaluate what fire department units will be required. If the officer and firefighters leave the stairwell or elevator lobby area they risk contamination and must use SCBA. When the operation is concluded they will have to be decontaminated. Any additional units that operate outside the clean area must use SCBA and will also have to be decontaminated. Consider special calling a Squad for decontamination. A complete list of members operating outside the clean area must be maintain at the command post. No unnecessary units or individual members should be allowed to enter the contaminated-area.

Recommendations:

The administrative company shall maintain a weekly surveillance of this building. The intent of this surveillance is to up date the status of the demolition, standpipe system, elevators, stairwells and gas and electric services. Changes in the status of these systems and services must be up dated on the CIDS card as soon as possible.

The Division and Battalion should meet on site and discuss formulating a set of SOP's for both fire and emergencies at this building.

Respectfully submitted,


Battalion Chief B-1