



*An Organization Dedicated to the Advancement of the Fire Service*

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March 16, 2009

VIA EMAIL ONLY  
State Representative Joan Ballweg  
P.O. Box 8952  
115 West, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear State Representative Joan Ballweg:

We are writing you today to express our support of the Collapse Rescue Team Working Group proposed implementation plan for collapse rescue services.

We have supported the Collapse Rescue Team initiative since its infancy. The majority of fire departments in Wisconsin have limited staffing and resources. Response to emergent situations in areas that require specialized training, such as in collapse rescue, is cost prohibitive for the vast majority of communities. It is reassuring to know that there is a plan for a state wide asset to respond with specialized equipment and trained personnel in the event of a collapse rescue event.

Beloit and Janesville Fire Department have been involved with this program since its inception. Rock County Fire Officers have reviewed the formulation of the Collapse Team Working Group plan and support the "single" team concept.

As Fire Service leaders, we believe that this plan will not only maximize training, but would also promote efficiency in the overall objective and enhance the safety of the participating team members as well.

In today's economic state, reducing the number of team member participation from 450 to 250 members is reasonable and responsible. Streamlining the team membership would allow monies to be reallocated towards more training, equipment, and personnel.

We sincerely hope that the Wisconsin Emergency Management, Office of Justice Assistance, and you will seriously consider the recommendations provided by the Collapse Team Working Group report. On behalf of the members of Task Force 2, including Beloit and the Janesville Fire Department, we feel very strongly that the recommendations from our peers is realistic and required to bring this program to a reality.

Respectfully,

Deputy Chief Bryan Northrop  
President, Rock County Fire Officers