

# SCHULTE & ASSOCIATES

Building Code Consultants  
880D Forest Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
fpeschulte@aol.com  
847/866-7479

## DC FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN VACANT HOUSE FIRE: “STUCK ON STUPID” (ONCE AGAIN)?

By Richard Schulte

Another example of fire fighters “*stuck on stupid*”?:

*“Five [DC] firefighters are being treated at a local hospital after they were seriously injured while battling a house fire in northeast.”*

*“A rescue squad went inside the burning home to make sure no one was trapped inside. Moments after making entry, the extreme heat of the fire caused a portion of the roof to collapse on top of the search and rescue team.”*

*“The home is said to usually be vacant, however it is possible people may have been inside the house when the fire broke out. No civilians were injured.”*

**Source:** <http://wusa9.com/news/article/145707/158/Roof-Collapse-Injures-Five-DC-Firefighters->  
(April 8, 2011, 7:40 AM)

How many times does this have to happen before the fire service begin to adopt the “safe” fire fighting practices outlined in **NIOSH 2005-132**, *Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Fire Fighters due to Truss System Failures*, and **NIOSH 2010-153**, *Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters using Risk Management Principles at Structure Fires*?

The Charleston Fire Department lost nine fire fighter at the Sofa Super Store fire on June 18, 2007. The Chicago Fire Department lost two fire fighters to an abandoned building on December 22, 2010.

Another term for the “*hero mentality*” in the fire service is “*stuck on stupid*”. The fire fighter fatalities suffered by the Chicago Fire Department and the Charleston Fire Department were self-inflicted. The same thing can be said for the fire injuries suffered by the DCFD this morning. If the fire service was actually serious about fire fighter safety, these events would never have occurred.

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