

(Above) City-Wide Tour Commander Sal Cassano confers with Chief Officers. 6th Division Commander Joe DiBernardo is in the white shirt.  
*all photos by FF J.J. Brown*

# Bronx Garage Collapse

by Battalion Chief

Raymond M. Downey, SOC

(Top) Firefighters from Squad Company 1 use Searchcam to look and listen for any other victims.

(Above) Box cribbing and struts provide stabilization to roof. (The victim's hand can be seen.)

(Below) Battalion Chief Raymond Downey confers with Lieutenant Olson and members of Rescue 3.

On May 3, 2000, a verbal alarm was received in the quarters of Engine 92/Ladder 44 and Battalion 17 for a collapse on Findlay Avenue, a few short blocks away. When units arrived, they found a one-story garage had collapsed, trapping two victims. Upon his arrival, Battalion Chief Lever of the 17th Battalion transmitted a 10-60 signal.

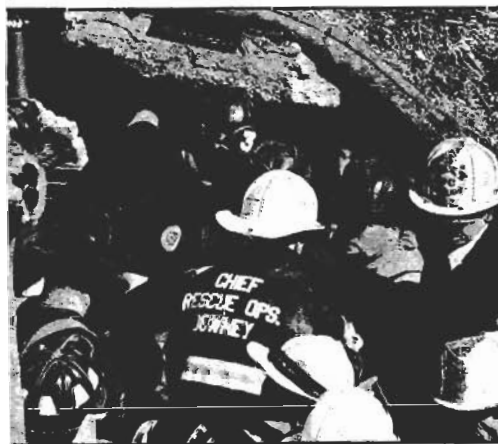
Ladder 44 located a victim on the exposure #2 side in the rear of the garage. Members immediately began the process of extricating him and, in a short period of time, successfully removed him from the collapse area.

The victim stated that one other worker still was in the garage. Initially, there had been four workers in the building prior to the collapse. The two in the front of the garage escaped unharmed.

The worker removed by Ladder 44 received injuries to his leg and was taken to a local hospital. The other trapped worker was crushed under the heavy roof of the garage. Rescue 3 was able to shore up and stabilize the roof and remove the worker. All of the workers were in the process of cleaning out the garage when the roof collapsed. (See opposite page for article on the Rescue 3 Collapse Unit by Battalion Chief Raymond M. Downey.)



(Top) Members of Rescue Company 3, preparing to remove second victim from collapse. (Above) Members remove second victim from collapse. (Below) FDNY Dr. Glenn Asaeda checks condition of second victim, who did not survive the ordeal.



(Left) Rake shoring on the rear wall of the garage. (Right) During the press conference, FF John South from Ladder 44 explains how members successfully extricated the victim from the collapse. Lieutenant Frank Gribbon is on the left and Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen is on the right.

