



PRESSRELEASE

Menlo Park Fire Protection District 170 Middlefield Rd Menlo Park, CA 94025 650-688-8400 Fax: 650-323-9129

Date: April 24, 2017
Contact: Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief
Phone: (650)380-1006 Cellular

Firefighters Rescue Man from Basement under Construction in Atherton

For the second time in the last nine months, Menlo Park Firefighters used specialized rescue techniques and technical rope and rigging equipment to safely remove a construction worker from a large residential construction projects basement, after the 33 year old male worker fell from an incomplete first floor assembly.

On April 21, 2017, Firefighters on Menlo Engine 3 were dispatched at 1215 pm to a reported fall victim into a basement at a residential construction site located on Britton Avenue in the Town of Atherton. The victim was reported to be conscious and breathing, but had sustained a significant head wound and body trauma.

Captain Mike Harrington and his crew on Engine 3 arrived on-site at 1220 pm and special called Menlo Truck 1 and Engine 4 once he determined that there were no stairs going down into the basement. The victim, an Iron worker, had sustained a 15 to 18 foot free fall into the basement where he had made contact with the concrete floor and was suffering from head and back injuries.

The personnel on Engine 3 assisted by the AMR Ambulance crew treated and packaged the patient while members of Truck 1 and Engine 4 placed a fully extended 35 foot ladder at a convenient angle to establish a "ladder slide" that also incorporated a mechanical advantage rope and rigging system needed to manually and safely haul the patient up and out of the basement, after placing him in a stokes litter basket so his cervical spine and neck were immobilized so as to minimize the potential of further injury.

The patient was removed from the basement at 1240 pm, 20 minutes after Firefighters arrived on-scene, and transported by Ambulance to Stanford Hospital. Fire Chief Schapelhouman said "we are experiencing a building boom as part of a robust economy. Unfortunately, we have also noticed that with that comes a higher and more frequent number of industrial emergencies and accidents as our firefighters very adeptly and quickly addressed during this emergency".

The previous basement rescue incident occurred in Menlo Park in August of 2016 and was followed in November 2016 by two workers trapped on a Sky lift 80 feet in the air that had frozen and required that they be rescued. Menlo Park Firefighters regularly train and practice for any type of technical rescue emergency.