



PRESS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

Date: April 26, 2017
Contact: Harold Schapelman, Fire Chief
Phone: (650)380-1006 Cellular

Two Iron Workers injured after a catastrophic failure of steel framing used to erect Facebook Building 21

At 5.21 pm, Menlo Park Firefighters responded to Facebook's new building 21, which is being built by General Contractor Level 10 Construction. San Mateo County Public Safety Communications (PSC) received multiple calls that part of the building had collapsed and two workers had fallen and were injured, but not trapped.

Based upon further reports, Menlo Battalion Chief Dan Coyle activated a level 1 multi-casualty incident which included three ambulances and a supervisor along with a Central County Heavy Rescue out of Burlingame and Menlo Rescue 2, Truck 1 and Engines 77, 5 and 1.

The crew of Menlo Engine 77, out of Belle Haven, arrived at 5.28 pm and were immediately escorted in by security and construction workers directly to the two injured men, who had been moved to a position of safety by fellow co-workers, well away from the collapse and danger zone.

According to other workers at the site, both victims had been working at an estimated height of forty feet assembling the structures steel framing when a catastrophic failure occurred and the steel beam they were standing on, and attached to, dropped an estimated 20 feet catching on a lower floor assembly, catapulting them towards the ground. Fortunately, their safety harnesses and rigging broke and stopped their decent, prior to actually hitting the ground below.

Fire Paramedics described both men as conscious, one in his late twenties and the other in his early thirties. Both were complaining of significant lower extremity pain and puncture wounds.

Firefighters from Menlo Engine 77 and 5 treated one patient while the other was treated by the crews of Engine 1 and Rescue 2. Firefighters quickly triaged, treated and packaged each patient in rapid and team fashion for immediate transport by two awaiting AMR Ambulances to Stanford Hospital and Trauma Center.

Firefighter Paramedics accompanied and assisted the AMR Ambulance Transport Paramedics all the way to the hospital due to the traumatic nature and mechanism of the injuries caused by the actual fall and deceleration.

Fire Chief Schapelhouman said “fortunately, the iron workers were wearing their safety harnesses and rigging, which probably helped save their lives along with, as we understand it, the fact that the beam they were attached to caught on a lower floor assembly, miraculously insuring their survival. Add in that the area below where they were working was pretty much open and an army of their co-workers immediately came to their aid, moved them to a place of safety, brought us right to them and then stood back so we could do our job..., honestly, it couldn’t have gone better”.

A number of steel upright and cross beams were damaged in the collapse. “Nothing can be touched until CAL-OSHA conducts an investigation” the Fire Chief said. “I spoke with our Fire Marshal this evening and we will obviously support the contractor and OSHA investigators in anyway necessary, but we will also want to be involved with any type of deconstruction plan and process needed, so the project can safely move forward again” the Chief said.

Please direct all further inquiries to CAL-OSHA.