

Directing the Forensic Investigation of a Catastrophic Structure Collapse: The Jacksonville Parking Garage Collapse

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Abstract : This paper discusses the forensic investigation of a fatality-involved catastrophic structure collapse and the special challenges faced when tasked with directing such an effort. While this paper discusses the investigation's findings and the outcome of the event; this paper's primary focus is on the challenges faced directing a forensic investigation that requires coordinating with governmental oversight while also having to accommodate multiple parties' investigative teams. In particular the challenges discussed within this paper included maintaining on-site safety and operations while accommodating outside investigator's interests. In addition this paper discusses unique challenges that one may face such as what to do about unethical conduct of interested party's investigative teams, "off the record" sharing of information, and clandestinely transmitted evidence.

Keywords : catastrophic structure collapse, collapse investigation, Jacksonville parking garage collapse, forensic investigation

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