



# TRAINING NOTES

## DIVISION OF TRAINING

### Berkeley Way Fire

#### When/Where:

133 Berkeley Way, San Francisco  
June 2, 2011

#### What:

Below grade fire that resulted in the  
line of duty death of Lt. Vincent  
Perez and FF/PM Anthony Valerio

#### Resources:

SFFD Manual: Buildings on  
Slope

SFFD Safety  
Investigation for  
133 Berkeley Way



NIOSH Line of Duty  
Death Report



SFFDDivisionofTraining



### Gone But Never Forgotten

On Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 10:45am, the San Francisco Fire Department responded to Box 8155, at 133 Berkeley Way. What began as a routine working fire in a single family home quickly turned fatal. Take a moment today to reflect on the lives lost due to this tragic event. Let us never forget, let us reflect, and review our standard operating procedures, guidelines and policies to honor our fallen brothers.

The first unit arriving on scene, Engine 26, observed light smoke showing from the garage of the 4 story (2 above grade, 2 below grade) type five building. An aggressive interior attack was made through the front door by Engine 26 to the ground level. A second line lead by Engine 24 was lead through the garage as a backup. It was then determined by Battalion 9 Fire Attack that the fire was below them and directed Engine 11 to lead a large line down the Bravo side of the structure to Sublevel 1. Truck 15 and Truck 11 conducted roof ventilation and search operations. The Rescue

## Tactical Considerations:

### 1. Perform a thorough size-up to build situational awareness. This is the basis of decision-making, forming incident priorities, strategy and tactics.

1. Monitor TAC and Command
2. Size, type and occupancy of structure
3. Slope type
4. Obtain a 360 if possible
5. Location and extent of smoke and fire
6. Best access to the fire location
7. Location of companies on scene
8. Occupants accounted for
9. Weather conditions

### 2. Remain situationally aware

1. Continually gather information
2. Monitor interior and exterior condition changes

### 3. Communication and Coordination

1. Confirm below grade fire
2. Location of smoke and fire
3. Location of hose lines
4. Communicate point of entry for fire attack and coordinate operations (Refer to *Buildings on Slope Manual 2015*)

### 4. Ensure your actions align with the incident priorities.

1. All operations at an incident are always based on Incident Priorities (refer to *Command Post Manual 2.2*)
2. Incident Priorities will change as incident progresses.

Squad made entry through the front door however were pushed back by intense heat. In the course of fire ground operations, several companies encountered downed firefighters Lt. Vincent Perez and FF/PM Anthony Valerio fo Engine 26. The injured members were pulled out and quickly transported to the hospital where they later succumbed to their injuries.

It was determined the cause of death for both Perez and Valerio were due to external and internal thermal injuries resulting in burns to 40% of their bodies. There was no evidence the members were expose to direct flame as a result of their death. Instead it was determined that the rapid heat conditions were caused by a window failing on Sublevel 1 which resulted in extreme heat following the buildings flow path.

