



102 Remington Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Phone: 970-416-2892
Fax: 970-221-6635
Internet: www.poudre-fire.org

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MEDIA CONTACT

General Media
PFAMedia@poudre-fire.org
970-416-2867

925 Camberly Dr. Trench Rescue Response– April 16, 2019

Poudre Fire Authority joined Windsor Severance Fire Rescue on a trench rescue. PFA dispatched at 2:58 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 to 925 Camberly Dr. in Windsor. Other partners including the Town of Windsor, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, Greeley Fire Department, Front Range Fire Rescue, Platte Valley Fire Protection District, Eaton Fire Protection District, UHealth and Colorado Task Force 1, joined the effort to save two men that were trapped in the collapse. Both patients succumbed to their injuries.

PFA arrived on scene to find two men trapped in a 15' deep trench under 26,000 pounds of Class C soil. Bystanders were able to connect a 1" PVC pipe to one patient which allowed him to breathe and communicate with responders. Responders maintained communications with him for 6.5 hours and he was able to talk to his family when they arrived on scene. No voice contact was made with the second patient.

The operation was conducted as a rescue until both individuals were verified as deceased at which time it transitioned into a recovery operation. In total, responders worked for 13 hours before both patients were extricated using a harness and the boom of the vacuum truck.

"This was a tough call on all of these responders – dedicated professionals leading with their hearts and delivering service with impeccable skill. Please keep the families of the deceased in your hearts and prayers," PFA Chief Tom DeMint wrote.

Trench rescues are time consuming and dangerous incidents requiring specialized training and equipment. Trench rescue operations are one of the many technical rescues PFA prepares for each year. Twenty-two trench rescue technicians, 18 of them from PFA, were included in the estimated total of 101 firefighters, EMS providers and additional support personnel.

Responders worked fast upon arrival to stabilize a highly unstable environment. Responders returned the next day and spent nearly five hours safely clearing the area and removing equipment.

Complex incidents like this highlight the need for cooperation between different agencies and PFA is proud to support Windsor Severance Fire Rescue during this challenging time.

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