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## Report of the Week

Everyone almost moves up a rank  
1/8/09

**Report Number: 09-002**

Report Date: 01/02/2009 1042

### Synopsis

Chimney collapses missing IC by a few feet.

### Demographics

Department type: Combination, Mostly volunteer

Job or rank: Assistant Chief

Department shift: Respond from home

Age: 34 - 42

Years of fire service experience: 27 - 30

Region: FEMA Region VII

Service Area: Rural

### Event Information

Event type: Fire emergency event: structure fire, vehicle fire, wildland fire, etc.

Event date and time: 01/01/2009 0115

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Involved in the event

Weather at time of event: Clear with Frozen Surfaces

Do you think this will happen again?

What do you believe caused the event?

- Situational Awareness

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Life threatening injury

### Event Description

As the initial incident commander, I was performing a 360 exterior survey of a two story residence with a well developed fire venting from side Bravo. While passing side Bravo, the masonry veneer chimney collapsed into the yard missing me by approximately four feet. A paramedic from the ambulance shouted at me and I began to run. I narrowly avoided catastrophe as the two story rock veneer chimney would surely have crushed me.

### Lessons Learned

I will certainly make a wider path from now on, even though I was at least fifteen feet away because the fire was venting from that side.

### Discussion Questions

The "360" is the initial phase that provides vital information for the action plan. If the Incident Commander (IC), or any firefighter goes down during this period, chaos reigns. Once chaos begins the action plan takes a totally different path; a path most firefighters and officers would rather avoid. One consideration is initial view and discussion of the "360." Where the IC shares initial information and provide feedback on what the view from that spot provides. This report sets the

stage for information gathering while circling the building. That information will only be of value if the IC makes it back to the command post in one piece. Once you have read the entire account of #[09-002](#) and the rest of the reports, consider the following:

1. What is the minimum collapse zone that should be established for a two story residence with a well developed fire?
2. Is that minimum collapse zone affected by chimneys, satellite dishes, or other protrusions from the structure?
3. What are five factors to consider when making a 360?
4. What does the term "masonry veneer chimney" tell you about the chimney?
5. Given the fire conditions and structure description in this week's report, what attack plan would you recommend, offensive or defensive and why?

#### Related Reports

[05-588](#)

[06-188](#)

[07-1016](#)

[08-121](#)

*Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.*