

National Construction Safety Team Investigation

**The Station Nightclub Fire:
Emergency Response**

Federal Advisory Committee
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Magnitude of life loss & injury

100 fatalities:

- ❑ 96 on site
- ❑ 4 subsequent to hospitalization

Estimated 230 casualties (186 of whom were transported by 1st responder agencies)

In U.S. history:

- ❑ 4th deadliest 'nightclub' fire
- ❑ 9th deadliest 'place of public assembly' fire

West Warwick Fire Department

Provides primary fire suppression, rescue & EMS to a population of just under 30,000 in a service area of approx. 8 sq. miles

Operating out of 4 Stations with a total of:

- 4 engines,
- 1 ladder truck,
- 1 special hazards / light unit &
- 2 rescue ambulances

Staffed by 13 career officers & firefighters per shift* (NFPA 1500 & 1710)

Type & Scope of the Incident

Type: Occupied commercial public assembly fire

Scope: Mass Casualties / Mass Fatalities Incident

WWFD “all hands” response w/ callback of off duty personnel
RI multi-regional, multi-State Fire-EMS-Police Mutual Aid

Activated:

- The Southern New England Fire Emergency Assistance Plan – MCI component
- The Rhode Island Mass Casualty Disaster Plan

Type & Scope of Incident (cont.)

583 Fire, EMS & Police responders

57 + Public & 6 Commercial Amb. Co.s (BLS-ALS)

2 Bus Services provided transportation & shelter

RI State Fire Marshal's Office

RI State Medical Examiner's Office

Incident progression

2/2/03

- 11:07 pm Ignition of stage area wall covering
- 11:10 pm WWFD dispatched to the scene
- 11:14 pm WWFD Eng.4 on scene advising "Heavy Fire" on arrival
- 11:16 pm WWFD Eng.4 "booster tank" initial water on fire
- 11:22 pm WWFD Chief responding, orders implementation of MCI plan
- 11:24 pm WWFD Eng. 4 receives water supply, begins "Master Stream" operations

Incident progression (cont.)

<u>2/21/03</u>	(Rescue & Fire suppression efforts continue)
12:15 am	Partial collapse of poolroom area
? am	Fire extinguished, recovery operations continue
01:05 am	All casualties transported from the scene
4:00 am	Chiefs meet to plan demobilization
6:00 am	Crane arrives to assist body recovery efforts
Noon	Last body recovered
11:15 pm	All units returned to quarters, incident scene secured, fire investigation ongoing

Concluding remarks

Incident assessment sources

- Information independently acquired by the NCST from State / local agencies & officials (e.g., A/V tapes, dispatch logs, photographs)
- Information detailed in DHS/ODP's after-action report acquired from various participant interviews, news accounts, existing records, etc.

Actions remaining to be taken:

- Complete “critical events” & “key actions” timeline
- Identify missing information and resolve inconsistencies
- Coordinate information with State / Local officials and DHS/ODP