



Fire Training Toolbox "Free Training for Firefighters"

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**TGI-Safety Bulletin**

To go along with the research study released by NYU-Poly in relation to lightweight construction during fire conditions, I wanted to share with everyone an incident that happened at White River Township FD. On August 31, 2008, crews were dispatched to a house fire. Upon arrival it was found that the mulch landscaping at the front of the house was on fire and extending up the vinyl siding. Crews knocked down the fire on the exterior and a second engine crew went to check the interior of the house and upon entering the basement found heavy smoke and fire conditions running the ceiling. After extinguishment of the fire it was found that numerous wooden I-beams, better known as Truss Joist I-Beam (called TGI because it is easier to say) were sagging and it was noted for all personnel to stay away from affected area. The TGI were unprotected and had burned through the OSB web. Pictures below show the damage to the exterior and floor assembly.

*Basement view showing unprotected TGIs.*



*Complete burn thru of OSB web. 1<sup>st</sup> flooring decking being supported only by the chords.*



*A/B Corner where exterior fire started*

*Another view from point of origin*



*A/B corner from street*

This is for informational purposes only to show the dangers of lightweight construction under fire conditions. No firefighters or civilians were injured during this fire but the outcome could have been very different. Situational awareness, building sizeups and knowing the buildings in your district are vital for our safety. It is okay to share this information.

Dale Saucier, Chief of Training and Safety  
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