

For immediate release

December 13, 2022



Trench collapse in Buffalo Grove results in fatality

Victim of trench collapse on the 1000 block of Aspen Drive in Buffalo Grove pronounced dead at hospital.

Buffalo Grove, IL - The Cook County medical examiner has confirmed the victim of the December 12 trench collapse to be 27-year-old Nikodem Zarembra of Elmwood Park.

"On behalf of the Fire Department and the entire Village of Buffalo Grove, I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Mr. Zarembra," said Fire Chief Mike Baker. "I also wish to thank the 17 area departments that provided mutual aid in this technical rescue effort."

At approximately 5:29 p.m. on Monday, December 12, the Buffalo Grove Fire Department responded to a report of a person trapped in a hole in the front yard of a residence located on the 1000 block of Aspen Drive. While units were en route, it was reported that the patient was buried and not breathing.

Upon arrival, the Buffalo Grove Battalion Chief on scene confirmed the reports and requested technical rescue team assistance from neighboring communities via MABAS. A total of 17 fire departments providing 62 personnel responded to assist in the rescue. Technical rescue specialists worked feverishly to uncover and remove the patient from the collapse.

The victim, Zarembra, was removed at 6:35 p.m. and transported to Northwest Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Village issued a sewer repair permit for the property on November 29, 2022. The contractor, Rooter Solutions, was to complete the work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is investigating the cause of the accident. Questions related to the investigation should be directed to Scott Allen, Director of Public Affairs and Media Relations for the U.S. Department of Labor at allen.scott@dol.gov.

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