Anthropology Club
4.12.2010

Jen Vollner

- Black Box Data
  - Shaker Turns On – The plane is traveling too slow and the nose dips to speed up, the pilot pulled up and loosees control of the plane, causing it to crash
- Crash Site – 6038 Long Street – Residential Area
  - Crashed on one house, mainly little damage to surrounding house
  - 55 deaths – two people were able to escape the house
- Clarence Center Fire Station
- First Responders
  - Firemen
    - Look for Survivors
    - Contain Fire
      - The plane hit a gas line – Could not immediately turn off line
  - Police
    - Secure the Scene
    - Evacuate the neighborhood
  - Buffalo ME Office, NTSB, FBI, Mercyhurst College
    - Begin to plan recovery
- Planning the Recovery
  - Who is in charge?
    - Terrorist Attack = FBI
    - Non Terrorist Attack = NTSB
  - Which agencies will be involved? What role will each have?
  - What equipment is needed? Who can provide help?
  - How many passengers and crew?
    - Seating Arrangements?
  - How many victims in the house?
    - Location in the house?
  - Orientation of plane?
    - Aerial Photos?
  - Size and set-up of the house?
    - Blueprints?
- Recovery Day 1
  - Still figuring out what they were going to do
  - Remains were relatively centralized
  - Steve Sims, Dennis, Dr. Murtis – key figures of recovering human remains
- The Protocols
  - 2 areas of concern – clear the site
    - crash site
    - perimeter
  - Documentation
• Written
• Photographic With Photo log
  • Over-alls and Evidence
• Mapping (total station)
  • FBI stepped in and helped with total station
  ◦ Goals
    • Recovery of remains – complete and quick
    • Recovery of airplane debris
    • Recovery of personal effects
  ◦ Safety
  ◦ Straight Line Pedestrian Search
  ◦ Recovered 3 individuals
    • Flag human remains and personal effects
• Start with the perimeter and work your way in
• Recovery Day 2
  ◦ Began to thaw out the huge mass and continue with remains recovery
  ◦ Sorting of personal effects
  ◦ Looking for the parts of the plane
  ◦ Clear out the remains and try to move remains to clear bodies
    • Wrap the hands and heads – to try and keep the parts of the body together as a whole
    • The bones were extremely fragile due to burns
    • Collection into Body Bags
  ◦ Total Station and Photography
    • Done by FBI and State Police
  ◦ Buffalo Fire Department
    • started in the back and moved toward the front were the bodies were
• Recovery Day 3
  ◦ Continued to thaw the wreckage
  ◦ Continue to remove remains
    • Difficult to excavate
• Condition of Human Remains
  ◦ Varied conditions due to spread of fire etc.
• Recovery Day 4
  ◦ Surface Wreckage was cleared, moved to basement and clear the rest of the wreckage
    • Firemen, police officers, Red Cross, etc helped remove house and plane parts
    • Basement was relatively clear
  ◦ Lifting Heavy Parts with Crane
• Recovery Day 5
  ◦ Cleaning out the rest of the basement, large parts and finishing looking for the remains
  ◦ Recovery of House items
  ◦ Screening Efforts
    • Screened all of the debris to look for any more remains
• The Recovery Efforts – Collaboration of several agencies
  ◦ Buffalo ME office
• NTSB
• FBI
• Buffalo Police and Fire
• Mercyhurst College/University of Buffalo
• Red Cross
• SMART
• Private Recovery Company
• Pilot's Union

• Call Back Out – Remains found on last day
• The Aftermath
  • DMORT – Disaster Mortuary
    ▪ Activated to aid in the identification process
    ▪ Set Up Stations
      • Pathology
      • Radiology
      • Anthropology
      • Fingerprints
      • DNA Samples
      • Odontology
    ▪ 49 out of 50 individuals were identified
    ▪ 3 Individuals were completely burned – Landed over gas land
      ◦ Filling Identification – 1
      ◦ Tooth Molar – 2
      ◦ Third individual was unidentified
• New Video – cbsnews.com
  • NTSB Video
  • Pilot Errors
    ▪ Changed Pilot Training and Conditions
    ▪ Wants stricter safety conditions for airlines
• Questions?
  • Where was the gas line located?
    ▪ From the street to the house
  • Who was left in the house?
    ▪ The father was left in the house, the mother and daughter (20) escaped
  • Still want to be a forensic anthropologist?
    ▪ Yes, it's reassuring to know that I am going to be able to return as much as the individual back to the family as possible
    ▪ Very challenging, but rewarding to know that their story is going to be told and their family is going to receive what is left of their loved ones

Next Meeting – April 26th
Elections and final meetings
hanging out and playing games

Presentation – Friday April 16th Union
9:00a: Rebecca Richart
11:30a: Jen Allen
1:30p – 3p: Jeff Gepper
2:45p: Jamie Henry