



Mark Bengé
Fire Fighter
Orange County
Fire Rescue
Academy Graduate

Mark Bengé was one of three firefighters on Engine 36 who responded to a report of a fire in a T-shirt store. After helping to force entry into the store he started pulling ceiling tiles over the entrance door.

Finding no fire, Bengé continued pulling ceiling tiles as Engineer Todd Aldridge and Firefighter Richard Marcotte, carrying a 1 3/4 inch hose, advanced into the store. Suddenly, the roof began collapsing. Bengé pushed Marcotte up against the wall and turned to help Aldridge. It is believed that just as he did so, the whole roof must have caved in on both Aldridge and himself.

Firefighter Marcotte was not seriously injured and managed to crawl to the glass door and break his way out with his SCBA bottle. Rescue attempts were made by additional units that arrived, but the fire flared to life with such intensity the rescue failed.

Former OCFR Battalion Chief George Mullins has said that Mark "...was a good firefighter who took each challenge...with enthusiasm and a positive attitude" Mark, he said, didn't believe in heros but rather that firefighters are trained to react to a set of circumstances in a positive manner.

