Working with Community Associations During a Pandemic

Last year, Paul Davis of Greater St. Paul and Minneapolis worked on a major project for a 55+ condominium association community. In addition to the regular challenges of a major fire (fire/water damage and reconstruction), the project presented the difficulties posed by a virus that hounds particularly the elderly.

The 17-story building was affected by a fire that originated on the 11th floor due to a resident placing a baseball cap on the light stand. Hoarding conditions facilitated the fire to spread. The efforts from the Fire Department resulted in water damage from the 11th floor to the basement of the building with over 80 units experiencing water and/or smoke damage. Some outdated construction features lacking fire-resistant barriers created optimal conditions for the water and soot to contaminate many units of the forty-year-old concrete building.

One of the most important considerations on this job was working with a community comprised of high-risk seniors during a pandemic. Provide adequate PPE to the numerous laborers needed to complete the demolition/decontamination phase and continue into the rebuild phase was a logistical struggle for the office. They used on average 300 to 400 N95 masks per month, five boxes of gloves per day, and large quantities of Tyvek suits. Protecting the health and safety of their team members and the seniors living there was a top priority.

The Paul Davis team set the aggressive goal of completing this over $2 million project within six months, and they did it. “All this was top of mind when the Paul Davis team gave their everything at this property to deliver the extraordinary care the customers so desperately need.”