

Tenants flee as house collapses

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

THREE people dashed out of a London house today seconds before it collapsed. Two tenants and a caretaker fled for their lives when the four-storey terraced house in Hampstead Road, Euston, began to creak.

Moments later the roof and three floors caved in. A young family in a car passing along Hampstead Road had a narrow escape. The car was covered in a cloud of dust.

A nearby milkman's float was also undamaged.

Eye-witness Mr Andrew Gavrielides, saw what happened from his office immediately opposite the house.

Smell of gas

He said: "First I saw cracks appearing in the front of the building. Then the beams of each floor seemed to cave in."

"It took about two minutes for the whole house to collapse. Someone rushed to stop the traffic."

Police and firemen sorted

CAR FAMILY IN NARROW ESCAPE

through the wreckage to make sure no injured people were under the rubble.

Two mechanical diggers swept up masonry from the road and pavement.

There was a strong smell of gas and police with loud hailers warned bystanders not to smoke or light matches.

Builders were working on the house before the collapse. The foreman was outside on the pavement when the house fell in.

Police were looking after the three people who escaped from the house, and a senior officer said: "All they've got is the clothes they stand up in. All their possessions are under that lot."



FIREMEN and police clearing rubble, after the building collapsed today.

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