

Main Street Memo: Combustible Cornices

noun

noun: **cornice**; plural noun: **cornices**

1. an ornamental molding around the wall of a room just below the ceiling.



Photo Credit: Ben Mazanee, STLFD Photographer



Things to Know

- Combustible cornices are framed and sheathed with tin or wood
- They create a combustible void that may span adjacent buildings
- Cornices are eccentric loads in a cantilever design
- Collapse can be sudden and unexpected even during overhaul
- Failing cornice beams may pull out walls during collapse

Photo Credit: Chris Tobin, Joe Pronesti, and Lex Shady