



Roosevelt Fire District
Standard Operating Guidelines

<u>Section:</u> Operations	<u>Guideline #16:</u> Multi Family Residential Structure Fires
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GENERAL DEFINITION

The following procedure outlines the strategy and tactics to be utilized at all structure fires occurring in multi-family residential structures. This includes Garden Apartments, Town Houses, Condominiums, Dormitories, and other Multi-Family Structures. “Taxpayers”, (buildings with mixed residential/commercial occupancies) are to be treated as RESIDENTIAL fires first and foremost. Additional SOGs will discuss operations at the other types of structures typically found within the Fire District, and the duties, responsibilities, and assignments of various apparatus and responders.

Managing the fire ground strategy must start with the arrival of the first unit, and be continually monitored and evaluated throughout the entire duration of the incident. If command is transferred to later arriving officers, those officers assuming command must evaluate the fire ground strategy based upon these principles, and make changes as necessary.

INCIDENT PRIORITIES & RISK MANAGEMENT

As detailed in the SOP for Fireground Strategy, the establishment of rigid incident priorities and a risk management philosophy are critical to guide officers and members in their decision-making. Incident priorities are to be kept paramount at all times while operating at the scene of an incident. As a reminder, the following is established as our incident priorities.

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation
4. Environmental Protection

It is also the responsibility of Incident Command to continually evaluate conditions on the fire ground, and to make operational decisions that serve not only the best interests of the community, but also of our responders. Our risk management philosophy is detailed in the Fireground Strategy SOP, and is repeated here for emphasis.

1. We will risk the lives of responders to protect savable lives
2. We will operate under marginal conditions to protect savable property
3. We will not risk the lives of our responders at all to try to save what is already lost

OVERALL OPERATIONS

Within the safety parameters established both above and in the Fireground Strategy SOP, the following procedures and assignments are to be followed at Multi-Family Residential Structure Fires.

Members Responsibilities

- Strict adherence to the PPE SOG, including no SCBAs with facial hair that touches the mask seal
- Be familiar with the SOGs, and know your job/duties under them
- Be familiar with riding position, tool assignment and function
- You will be formed into operational teams (“companies”) and given an assignment – remain with your team for the duration of the entire incident. **NO FREELANCING & NO CHANGING OPERATIONAL TEAMS ONCE ESTABLISHED.**
 - If you arrive on an apparatus – that is your “company”. If you have less than 3 interior members on board at time of arrival –assist the chauffeur complete the initial rig assignment for that apparatus, and then report to ESS/Staging for assignment.
 - If you arrive in a POV – retrieve an SCBA from one of the apparatus, don it and report to the ESS/Staging for assignment.
 - Once your “company” has an officer/leader and an assignment, retrieve the appropriate tools and begin your task.
 - Once your “company” assignment is complete, all team members remain together and report back to staging, or to rehab, as appropriate. Ensure IC knows task was completed
 - If your “company” assignment is not complete, and a low air warning is sounding for any member, the entire “company” will exit together and report to rehab. Ensure IC knows that assignment remains incomplete.
- Immediately advise officers if given an assignment that you are unsure of, untrained for, or incapable of performing
- Each “company” should have a portable radio -- it is not practical for every firefighter to have one, as this causes radio feedback, and hampers effective communications, and there simply aren’t enough radios to go around otherwise
- Be prepared for changes in assignment as directed by officers
- Always communicate benchmarks achieved, changes in fire conditions, and problems encountered to IC

Officer Responsibility

- Be familiar with the SOGs, and know your job/duties under them
- Request a 2nd alarm, or additional alarms as appropriate (if not already done)

- Anticipate changes in fire conditions and plan for the safety of your firefighters under your direction, and all affected civilians. Maintain Accountability for all those you supervise AT ALL TIMES. Remain with your company/team throughout the entire incident.
- Always communicate benchmarks achieved, changes in fire conditions, and problems encountered to IC
- First arriving officer (or initial IC) completes a 360 scene size up, later arriving officers should complete a 360 scene assessment PRIOR to assuming command.
- IC shall announce on the appropriate Radio Channel, the Fire Ground Strategy he/she is ordering to be utilized. (i.e. Investigative, Offensive, Transitional or Defensive)

Search

- Life safety is our highest priority, and searches must be begun as soon as possible
- Search should be initiated as close to the fire area as possible, working outward from the seat of the fire
- All tenable areas of the structure are to be searched
- Searches must be systematic and thorough
- Primary and Secondary searches are always to be performed, and different teams should do them
- Communicate all findings (positive or negative) to IC immediately
- Areas of the structure not immediately accessible from the interior shall be reported to IC
 - V-E-S or other methods should be utilized to search otherwise inaccessible areas if deemed to be tenable

Ventilation

- ALL ventilation needs to be coordinated with fire attack – there shall be no random breaking of windows!!
- The IC will determine whether vertical ventilation is required
- Positive pressure ventilation (fans) should not be used while flames are still visible, unless specifically ordered by IC
- Prior to commencing ventilation; a hand line MUST be in place, the location of the seat of the fire, and the location(s) of all interior crews MUST be known
- Consider the effects of ventilation on fire conditions, fire spread and flow path PRIOR to making any opening

1st Arriving Engine

- Unless specifically ordered by the IC, there is to be ONLY ONE ATTACK ENGINE.
- If structure is visible from roadway AND set back is 100' or less from the street;
 - Pull past the fire building, observing 3 sides of the structure.
 - DO NOT block the driveway, DO NOT enter the driveway.
 - The area directly in front of the house, and the driveway, are reserved for the truck
- If structure is not visible from roadway OR set back is 100' or more from the street;

- Enter the driveway, position the apparatus to still allow for placement and operation of the aerial
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - Forcible Entry – IC or officer/member in charge of the Engine will determine point of entry
- Place an attack line into operation with tank water
 - Between the fire and any possible victims
 - Minimum 1¾” hose, minimum 150 gpm, minimum 50’ working length at point of entry + 50’ for each additional floor
 - IC or officer/member in charge of the Engine will determine which line is to be pulled. In Transitional or Defensive operations, the 1st line charged may be a Master Stream or Deck Gun
 - Between the fire and any possible victims
 - Between the fire and the most threatened exposure
 - Pump Operator to monitor and report water supply conditions to crew on hose line.
- Pump Operator to keep tank full once positive water source is established
 - Crews MUST exit structure, or retreat to safe area of building prior to total loss of water
- If the fire building is equipped with a standpipe/sprinkler system (See Standpipe/Sprinkler SOG for complete details)
 - Determine which floor(s) are on fire. If fire is on Floor #1 or Floor #2, officer will decide whether to stretch from the attack engine, or to utilize high rise hose packs and standpipe system. THIS MUST BE ANNOUNCED.
 - If standpipe is used, this engine is to be used for equipment only. If the chauffer is INTERIOR, the rig can be abandoned in place, and the chauffer should don SCBA and join his company.

2nd Arriving Engine

- Functions as a water supply buffer, and additional “tool box” for the incident UNLESS the STANDPIPE system is being used for primary fire attack. In this case, this engine SUPPLIES the FDC to allow interior operations via the building’s standpipe system
- If structure is visible from roadway AND set back is 100’ or less from the street;
 - DO NOT block the driveway, DO NOT enter the driveway.
 - DO NOT block the front of the building – leave room for the Truck
 - Provide water supply to attack engine (unless standpipe is being used)
 - Forward hose lay from closest hydrant (where available) to 1st due engine
 - Forward hose lay from closest intersection to 1st due engine, if no hydrants
 - Provide tank water to attack engine ASAP

- If the fire building is equipped with a standpipe/sprinkler system AND the standpipe system is being used for primary fire attack.
 - Forward hose lay from closest hydrant to FDC
 - All buildings with FDC's should have a hydrant readily available.
 - Provide tank water to FDC ASAP
- Pump Operator to keep tank full once positive water source is established
- If structure is not visible from roadway OR set back is 100' or more from the street;
 - DO NOT enter the driveway until after the truck
 - Only IC can order 2nd due to enter the driveway ahead of the truck
- Provide water supply to attack engine (unless standpipe is being used)
 - Forward hose lay from end of driveway to 1st due engine
 - If driveway is short, consider positioning apparatus at end of driveway, and hand jacking hose to attack engine.
 - Provide tank water to attack engine ASAP
- If the fire building is equipped with a standpipe/sprinkler system AND the standpipe system is being used for primary fire attack.
 - Forward hose lay from closest hydrant to FDC
 - All buildings with FDC's should have a hydrant readily available.
 - Provide tank water to FDC ASAP
- Pump Operator to keep tank full once positive water source is established
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - Assemble RIT equipment at primary point of entry OR floor below fire
 - Ensure 2 In/2 Out is established
 - Search

3rd Arriving Engine

- Establish positive water source to scene as soon as practical
- If house is visible from roadway AND set back is 100' or less from the street;
 - In hydrant area, respond directly to hydrant where 2nd due Engine dropped their supply line, and establish source pumper operation from that hydrant
 - In Non-Hydrant area, respond directly to intersection where 2nd due dropped their supply line, and establish the nurse/tender operation
- If house is not visible from roadway OR set back is 100' or more from the street;
 - Go to end of driveway, where 2nd due dropped their supply line
 - Connect supply line to line dropped by 2nd due Engine
 - Reverse lay back to either the closest hydrant (if available), or the closest intersection (for nurse/tender operation)
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - Place a 2nd line into operation as soon as possible
 - DO NOT charge a 2nd line until additional water is available (i.e. hydrant or 2nd arriving engine)

- 2nd line to be same size or larger as the 1st line
- Establish “On Deck” for 2 In/2 Out – Refer to appropriate SOP

All later Arriving Engines

- In hydrant area – safely park the vehicle, without unnecessarily blocking the roadway
 - 4th due MUST supply FDC if not already done by 2nd due Engine. (i.e. Fire on 1st or 2nd floor of building with FDC, but primary attack is directly from the 1st due Engine.
 - This is to support the building’s sprinkler system
 - Use water source different than fire attack (if available)
- In Non-Hydrant area – get in line to shuttle water as part of Nurse/Tender operation
 - Water Supply Officer will determine appropriate fill site, and detail the last due engine to establish fill site, instead of reporting to the scene.
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - Report to ESS (Staging)
 - Secondary Search, Placing Ground Ladders, Salvage/Overhaul or as directed

Ladder Truck

- Position in front of building, or enter driveway, as appropriate
- Set Jacks, Obtain Ladder Lock, and get the aerial ladder unbedded and directed towards the fire building
- Start generator; provide lighting and electrical power as needed at the scene
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - Ventilation as directed and appropriate to situation
 - Ground ladders placed on all 4 sides of the structure, to support interior operations

ESS

- Position as close as possible to scene, without obstructing necessary apparatus traffic (i.e. tanker shuttle)
- Start generator; provide lighting and electrical power as needed at the scene
- Ensure that 2 in/2 out equipment is brought to point of attack
- Serve as staging area, where work teams (“companies”) will be formed and given assignments. If ESS not present (OOS or Non-response) staging shall be the 2nd Due Engine.
- Assist Support members in establishing rehab operations as appropriate
- Initial Manpower Responsibilities (regardless of apparatus positioning)
 - As directed by IC

Ambulance

- Position as close as possible to scene, without obstructing necessary apparatus traffic (i.e. tanker shuttle)

- Ensure that there is clear path of travel away from the scene, in case any victims or members require transport
- Assist Support members in establishing rehab operations as appropriate

Air Truck

- Position as close as possible to scene, without obstructing necessary apparatus traffic (i.e. tanker shuttle)
- Assist Support members in establishing rehab operations as appropriate
- Start generator; provide lighting and electrical power as needed at the scene
- Prepare to fill depleted SCBA cylinders as they become available

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