

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.33

SUBJECT: CHIMNEY FIRES

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline provides actions when responding to chimney fires.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINE

A. Incident Priorities

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation

B. Apparatus Response

1. Chimney fires fall under the structure fire response.
2. Apparatus response is dictated by *Guideline 300.01 Apparatus Response Guideline*

C. All personal protective equipment (PPE) is required.

D. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is required for fire personnel operating in an area that is or could become contaminated with the byproducts from the chimney fire.

E. First arriving Fire Department Officer shall give first in report, verbally reporting the size of building, smoke or fire conditions present, establish or transfer Incident Command.

F. Size up

1. Determine type of chimney involved, location and extent of fire.

G. Assignments

1. Roof Team

- a. Radio Designation = Roof
- b. Personnel assigned this function are responsible for all roof operations, including but not limited to:
 1. Ladder selection and safe use
 - a. Aerial
 - b. Ground
 - c. Roof

2. Chimney Chain

3. Other Equipment Needed
 - a. Flashlight
 - b. Possibly toolbox or at minimum nut driver(s)
 4. Tactics
 - a. Communicate with Command and other organizational functions to extinguish fire
 - b. Set up appropriate ladders and climb safely
 - c. Inspect chimney and determine extent of fire
 - d. Use chimney chain to clean chimney if necessary
 1. Drop cleaner into chimney and work from side to side and up and down
 2. Communicate this tactic before starting.
 - e. Safely operate on the roof and look out for other team member's safety
2. Basement Team or Interior Team(s) – Depending on where the wood burning appliance is located determines the number of interior assignments and designations.
- a. The radio designation can be Basement or Interior Team with Team Leader's I.D. #
 - b. The following functions are the responsibilities of these team(s).
 1. Equipment
 - a. Debris Carrier
 - b. Metal Bucket with small shovel
 - c. Inspection mirror
 - d. Runner tarps
 - e. Salvage covers
 - f. Other tarps (If necessary)
 - g. Hand lights
 - h. Attic or Step Ladder
 - i. Four Gas (CO) Detector
 - j. Toolbox
 - k. Thermal Image Camera
 - l. Pressurized Water Extinguisher
 - m. Dry chemical extinguisher
 - n. Irons
 2. Tactics
 - a. Set up runner tarps to protect floor coverings
 - b. Remove fire from fire box
 1. Ensure the surrounding interior area is protected from sparks or embers. (Salvage covers)
 2. Make sure the embers and ashes are placed in a safe location outdoors and extinguished.
 - c. Verify chimney configuration (elbow or bends) and communicate with roof team
 1. Depending on the configuration of the vent system, some vent pipe may have to be disassembled to adequately determine chimney configuration.
 - d. Coordinate chimney fire extinguishment/cleaning with roof team
 - e. Check for fire extension in walls (all floor levels) and attic space

3. Ventilation Team – Responsible for ventilating the structure.
 - a. Radio designation = Ventilation
 - b. Equipment/Types of ventilation
 1. Positive Pressure Fan
 2. Smoke Ejector
 3. Natural
 4. Four Gas (CO) Detector
 - c. Tactics
 1. Ventilate, using the equipment listed above, all smoke from structure using the most efficient method.
 2. Monitor carbon monoxide inside of the residence

H. Customer Service

1. Ensure the area is cleaned up and all furniture or other items are put back
2. Check for working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the structure
3. Inform the owner or occupant that the chimney cannot be used again until inspected by a chimney professional.
4. Remind the owner or occupant the following:
 - a. Burn clean, dry wood
 - b. Clean the chimney at least once a year

References: Risk and frequency classification information - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>