

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.03

SUBJECT: STRUCTURE FIRES

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide directions to be followed in the event of a fire incident involving one and two family dwellings, multi-family dwellings and commercial/industrial buildings.

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.

DEFINITION

- A. Multiple-family dwellings can be defined as “all buildings or portions thereof, which contain more than two living units or areas, such as apartments, motels, hotels, condominiums, townhouses, row houses, boarding houses, homes for the elderly, healthcare facilities, and other like buildings”.

GUIDELINES

- A. Apparatus Response
1. Refer to Guideline 300.01 Unit Response Chart
- B. Safety
1. All personnel shall ensure their personal protective equipment with SCBA is worn properly and that situational awareness is maintained throughout the incident.
- C. Apparatus Positioning
1. When positioning the first due engine at a dwelling fire, the driver should position the engine just past the fire building. This is done for two reasons:
 - a. It allows the officer to view three side of the fire building (sides A, B, and D);
 - b. It leaves side A (front) of the fire building available for the aerial ladder.
 2. The second due Engine will connect to fire department connection on sprinkled building, park based on incident needs, orders or, if necessary, is assigned the alley operations as described in Guideline 300.04 Fire Department Operations – Alleys.
 3. The third arriving Engine will park based on incident needs or orders.
 4. Positioning of the apparatus may be ordered by Incident Command.
 5. The driver should position the apparatus for optimum efficiency.
 6. The aerial ladder should be positioned in relation to the fire building so it may best perform its duties.

7. Placement of the engine just past the fire building or placement of the aerial truck in the front of the building may not always be possible. Conditions such as the following may cause the officer to deviate from positioning the apparatus as specified above. Apparatus placement must always be positioned for the safety of personnel and equipment.
 - a. Location of fire
 - b. Access to the property
 - c. Wind direction; and
 - d. Exterior exposures and Hazards
- D. Principles of Modern Fire Attack may be included based upon 300.03 Addendum #1
- E. Size Up
 1. The first arriving officer shall give an initial on scene report via radio on Page Frequency that includes at a minimum of the following:
 - a. Address
 - b. Type of building
 - c. Size of building
 - d. What is visible from exterior visually and with thermal imager, i.e. smoke, flames, both, nothing
 - e. Initiate Incident Command
 - f. Identify initial action plan
 2. Perform 360 degree trip around the building or assign the task
 3. Perform risk management assessment
 4. Inform responding units of any changes to assignments
 5. Perform continuous size up and maintain situational awareness
- F. Incident Priorities – See Guideline 300.02 – Tactical Priorities for further explanation
 1. Life Safety
 2. Incident Stabilization
 3. Property Preservation
- G. Water Supply
 1. Hydrants
 - a. The decision to connect to a fire hydrant is left to the Incident Commander or first arriving officer's discretion depending on fire conditions and number of personnel responding.
 - b. An announcement on the radio (Fire Ground Red) shall be made as to water supply actions needed.
 - c. The second due Engine connects to the fire department connection for sprinkled buildings or as determined by Incident Command.
 - d. Where applicable, separate hydrants shall be used for fire attack and sprinkler system support.

2. Portable Tanks/Tenders
 - a. Tenders and portable tanks shall be used efficiently in the non-hydrant areas.
 - b. Please see the following corresponding operating guidelines for further information on rural water supply and operations
 1. Guideline 300.05 Rural Water Supply
 2. Guideline 300.30 Relay Pumping – Non-Hydrant Areas
- H. Fire Attack
 1. The appropriate sized attack line should be deployed based on fire conditions.
 2. Hose teams should enter the building as directed by Incident Command.
- I. Ventilation
 1. The different materials present in today's fires must be considered when performing ventilation. Ventilation too early can exacerbate fire conditions. Ventilation must be coordinated with the initial hose team.
 2. Types of Ventilation
 - a. Horizontal
 1. Natural
 2. Positive pressure
 3. Negative pressure
 - b. Vertical
 1. Roof ventilation
 2. Utilization of roof hatch or other vertical shaft
 3. An appropriate ventilation method must be chosen by the Incident Commander based on risk management assessment and fire/smoke conditions.
- J. Utility Control
 1. Electrical
 - a. Contact or have Dispatch contact the appropriate Utility Company to Respond
 - b. De-energize the affected area by opening circuit breakers or other safety switches as needed if directed by Incident Command
 - c. If the electrical system cannot be de-energized, the Utility Company will need to complete this task from an exterior point.
 - d. The fire department does not pull meters.
 2. Gas
 - a. Contact or have Dispatch contact the appropriate Utility Company to Respond
 - b. On a gas meter, the customer valve is attempted to be shut off first. This valve is located past the actual meter. If a valve turns hard, make sure the nut or other holding mechanism on the back of the brass core also starts moving. If the holding mechanism is not turning, it indicates the core is being twisted and deformed. **DO NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE METER STOP.**

- c. The Utility Company's valve is shut off if the customer valve does not operate for reason. This valve is located on the gas riser right above grade. If a valve turns hard, make sure the nut or other holding mechanism on the back of the brass core also starts moving. If the holding mechanism is not turning, it indicates the core is being twisted and deformed. DO NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE METER STOP.
- d. If all valves fail, the utility company will need to shut the gas off at a curb stop or other location.

K. Atmospheric Monitoring

1. Atmospheric monitoring should take place once ventilation is started or as directed by Incident Command. Refer to Guideline 200.08.

L. Salvage and Overhaul

1. Salvage is the process of protecting savable property from further damage. This process may start at any time.
 - a. Equipment needed
 1. Floor runners
 2. Salvage covers
 - b. Move savable property into a safe area in the building and gather, stack or gently pile those valuables and cover with salvage covers.
 - c. If necessary move items outside and cover.
2. Overhaul is the process to reveal any smoldering fire hidden above ceilings, behind walls, structural members or other areas of a building and extinguishing. Overhaul can be labor intensive. Rotating shifts of personnel should be used to accomplish overhaul.
 - a. Overhaul cannot start until authorized by Incident Command in conjunction with the Fire Investigation Team.
 - b. Equipment Needed
 1. Thermal Image Camera
 2. Safety glasses and dust masks if SCBA is not required based on atmospheric monitoring
 3. Irons (Axe and Halligan)
 4. Roof hooks
 5. Pike poles
 6. Salvage covers
 - c. Overhaul should begin nearest the point of origin and work out. The thermal image camera can assist in determining smoldering areas, but areas with heavy charring should still be overhauled to assist in the prevention of a rekindle.
 - d. A salvage cover, if necessary, should be placed under area that is being overhauled to make transport of debris out of building easier.
 - e. Once overhaul is complete, the area overhauled should be gently washed down as needed. The outside debris pile should also be wetted down.

M. Owner/Occupant Contact

1. The owner of the building and/or occupants shall be informed of the actions of the fire department and given any assistance necessary to help them start the recovery process.