

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 401.0 Structure Fires In the City



Purpose:

Working at structure fires has never been more dangerous to firefighters than they are today. Many of today's homes are better insulated than ever before. Many homes today also have fire alarm systems built into them. Just these two factors alone cause firefighters to respond earlier and are exposed to greater dangers than ever. Today's protective clothing allows firefighters to penetrate deeper into these structures, placing firefighters at greater risk. This guideline is established to help firefighters deal with structure fires and to fight them safely.

Guideline:

The use of the incident management system is paramount to the effective outcome of any incident and will be used on these types of fires.

Upon arrival of the first unit, the officer of that unit will perform a size up of the fire, and call for additional resources as necessary. The officer shall establish command and shall remain in charge of this fire until relieved by a higher ranking officer.

Responding Units and Personnel

1st. Engine on scene

If upon arrival at the fire scene and nothing is showing, the Engine Company will proceed to the building involved. If however smoke is showing, or a working fire is in progress, the Engine shall lay a supply line from the nearest fire hydrant, if available. The officer and the firefighters should proceed to attack the fire or initiate rescue. The driver shall operate the pump and set up for a water supply, either from a fire hydrant or from the second due engine. The hydrant man shall hook up to the hydrant, and then assist the crew with attacking the fire.

2nd. Engine on scene

On buildings with no sprinkler system, stop at the nearest fire hydrant, if it is within supply line range and request instructions from the officer in charge. This Engine could be used for water supply, firefighting, manpower, etc.

On buildings with sprinkler and/or standpipe systems, go to the fire department connection and prepare to hook up and supply the system with water. On all buildings with sprinkler and/or standpipe systems, the Engine will pump 150 psi into the system.

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3rd. Engine on scene

Stop at the nearest fire hydrant, if it is within supply line range and request instructions from the officer in charge. This Engine could be used for water supply, firefighting, manpower, etc.

4th Engine on scene

The fourth Engine shall proceed to the fire and stage itself 1 block away from the fire and request instructions from the officer in charge prior to taking any action.

Tower 27

The Tower shall proceed to the fire scene and position in a manner to be placed in service. The Tower shall have as its priority the searching for victims in fires. They shall also perform ventilation, forcible entry, controlling of utilities, place additional ladders to the involved building, and may be used for firefighting. The Tower shall lay its own water supply lines.

Rescue 25

The Rescue shall proceed to the fire scene. The driver shall place lights in service as needed. The crew of the Rescue shall assist as directed by command.

Chief Officers

The Chief Officers shall proceed to the fire scene and assume command of the fire. The Chief Officer in charge shall be designated "Command" and shall have overall command and control of the emergency. He shall establish an Incident Command System, if not already established and direct operations. The officer in charge may establish any of the ICS positions as necessary to accomplish the necessary tasks.