

Commercial Properties

15.0700 Scope:

Commercial properties shall include businesses, schools and shops with very limited special hazards.

15.0701 Before Leaving the Station:

- a. Map book should be retrieved and opened to the correct page for the structure and HYDRANT LOCATIONS before the apparatus responds.
- b. Check the pre-plan book and or MDC to see if a pre-plan is available.
- c. If a Site-Access sheet is available, refer to it in the map-book ASAP.
- d. Determine if mutual-aid resources will be needed make request to communication center.

15.0702 1st Engine Placement:

Positioning of the engine is the responsibility of the Company Officer. The engine should be positioned keeping the following factors in mind:

- a. Location of fire in building;
- b. Access to building;
- c. Keeping the front of building open for the ladder company.

Generally on small to medium size commercial properties, it is advantageous to position the engine just past the building leaving the front of the building available to the ladder company.

15.0703 First arriving engine (water supply):

On smoke showing, visible fire or confirmed alarm, the first arriving engine shall forward lay a 5-inch (LDH) supply line from the nearest fire hydrant prior to arriving at the fire building, OR position the first arriving engine company at the nearest fire hydrant prior to the fire building and allow the officer and fire crew to investigate the condition of the reported fire building (hydrant person & D/O should stay with Eng.)

15.0704 Fire Brigade or Emergency Response Team:

If the facility has a known Emergency Response Team, the first-in engine should meet a team representative at the pre-determined location and obtain a size-up of the situation.

15.0705 Level 1 Staging:

First arriving Engine responds to a pre-assigned position as noted previously. If the building is sprinklered, the second arriving Engine supports the sprinkler system and connects to a second hydrant. All other units, except a Command vehicle, shall stage 1 block away, ready to move to a suggested location or a location ordered by the Incident Commander.

15.0706 Rescue:

Rescue of a known life is the #1 Priority. A primary search should be conducted immediately with a charged hoseline. It is also imperative that a handline be stretched to the seat of the fire by the first arriving engine in an attempt to stop the forward progress of the fire. This will facilitate the rescue effort and lessen the danger to the occupants. If the occupants are visible from the exterior of the building, an attempt should be made to rescue them with the use of ground ladders. If staffing permits, the rescue should be carried out while a handline is advanced to the seat of the fire. Members advancing the handline to the fire area can search that area as well as extinguishing or controlling the fire.

Ladders should be used (including aerial) to conduct the primary search as soon as possible and to rescue any occupants trapped by the fire. Search priorities shall be as follows:

- a. Fire area
- b. Floor above fire
- c. Top floor
- d. Floors in between

Any emergency medical care should be provided to the occupants of the residence as soon as possible (by First Responder or Ambulance personnel), such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation. There should be no hesitation in requesting emergency traffic for an ambulance to treat occupants, or for standing by for possible use at a later time. Any working fire requires the presence of an ambulance on location.

15.0707 Fire Control:

At least one handline shall be advanced to the seat of the fire. The line chosen shall never be less than 1-3/4 inches in diameter and should be the "apartment line" in most cases. In most cases the fire attack should be made from the unburned side of the building. Also in most cases, the line can be advanced through the front door of the dwelling. From this point, access is usually available to all areas of the dwelling. The number of lines to be used will be the choice of the incident commander and depend directly on the nature and size of the fire encountered. A back-up safety line/RIT is necessary to potentially rescue the fire attack crew. If a local standpipe system is needed and available, the high-rise pack should be deployed.

15.0708 Second Arriving Engine:

Sprinklered Buildings: The second arriving engine shall secure a water supply and support the building's automatic fire sprinkler system.

Non-Sprinklered Buildings: The second arriving engine shall locate an alternative hydrant and stand-by for further direction from the Incident Commander. The fire fighters from the second arriving engine can be utilized for rescue or the placement of additional hand-lines. At the option of command, these additional fire fighters can be utilized for ladder company (support) activities, fire suppression, or as command deems necessary for control or mitigation of the incident.

15.0709 Ladder Company Positioning:

The ladder truck will often times position in the front of the building. Positioning will normally be the responsibility of the Incident Commander based on the size of the building, location of the fire, access, etc.. It may also be advantageous to position on a corner of a building in order to sweep two sides. On commercial properties, positioning should be made with the following objectives in mind:

- a. Use of ladder for rescue
- b. Use of ladder to roof
- c. Building collapse
- d. Master stream operations

15.0710 Ladder Company Operations:

It will be the responsibility of the Ladder Officer, or Acting Officer, to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although some of the duties may have been already implemented by earlier arriving engine companies, it will be the responsibility of the Ladder Officer to coordinate the remaining activities to ensure they will be completed. The following are some of the activities or duties that must be addressed: rescue, ladders, forcible entry, salvage, ventilation, and utility control. Many of these duties can be carried out simultaneously with one another.

Defensive water application: Aerial apparatus water supply should be provided by the second arriving engine or a third arriving engine (LDH). Allow positioning to accommodate water supply set-up. Always be ready for this possibility!

15.0711 Rescue Company Operations:

It will be the responsibility of the Rescue Officer, or Acting Officer, to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although some of the duties may have been already implemented by earlier arriving engine companies, it will be the responsibility of the Rescue Officer to coordinate the remaining activities to ensure they will be completed. The following are some of the activities or duties that must be addressed: rescue, ladders, forcible entry, salvage, ventilation, RIT and utility control. Many of these duties can be carried out simultaneously with one another.

15.0712 Primary Search:

A primary search must be performed at every fire situation, whether fire is showing or not. The only difference is the number of fire fighters assigned this task by the Incident Commander. In nothing showing situations, the primary search can be assigned to two fire fighters, however, if a fire is located, more fire fighters must be assigned to the task. The crew performing search and rescue must be equipped with a radio to keep in constant communication with the Incident Commander.

When conditions indicate there is a fire or the first arriving company reports a fire in their size-up, a primary search must be performed to locate and remove endangered occupants, or to verify that civilians have escaped the fire. The fire attack crew(s) can perform the primary search of the immediate fire area while the truck or rescue company personnel begin the primary search on the floor immediately above the fire. All searches must be made using a search pattern indicated in Section 15.0510. If time and staffing permits, the search and rescue crews operating above the fire should do so with the protection of a handline. This will provide protection for the fire fighters performing this task. tagline/rescue rope should be used as a minimum protection device to lead search personnel to the way out of the building. This will provide protection for the firefighters performing this task. Fire fighters performing the primary search must have forcible entry tools with them to force open locked doors or to aid the escape of the fire fighter should he/she become trapped in a building or room.

Victims are often overcome attempting to escape the fire. For this reason, firefighters performing the primary search will commonly find victims next to doors and windows. Firefighters should pay close attention for signs of trapped or injured occupants. Coughing, moaning, or cries for help indicate people may have not escaped the fire. If occupants or victims are located, this should be communicated to the Incident Commander immediately. Victims should be removed via the interior stairway if at all possible. Ladders should be used only if passage down the stairway is not possible.

Fire fighters shall mark the rooms or areas that have been searched by placing a piece of furniture or other article that would not be normally found in that location in the doorway or entry to the searched area.

15.0713 Ventilation:

Ventilation must be performed. Ventilation facilitates rescue, fire control and property conservation. Ventilation shall not occur until attack lines have been charged. Positive Pressure Ventilation is preferred but there are risks involved with utilizing PPV, if the location of the fire can't be determined the safety of the interior crews or victims may be compromised. The IC will determine the need for vertical or horizontal ventilation. This task will normally be conducted by the ladder company but could be conducted by the second arriving engine crew if necessary. Ventilation should be one of the early priorities!

Fire that extends to attics must be controlled quickly. Ventilation of the roof is essential. Venting of the roof should be performed directly over, or as close as SAFELY possible to the fire. In fires that are extremely smoky, roof ventilation should be performed over stairwells or hallways to clear these areas of smoke and toxic gases. If conditions warrant, it may be beneficial to use portions of the buildings HVAC system to assist in the ventilation process. Some commercial structures have large roof exhaust systems that may be utilized to benefit in the ventilation process.

When roof ventilation is performed, it shall be performed with a minimum number of two firefighters in full protective equipment, including SCBA. The following equipment shall be considered standard equipment to be taken to the roof at all times:

- a. Pick-Headed Axes
- b. Pike Poles
- c. Power saws
- d. Rope
- e. Flashlights
- f. Roof Ladders(s)
- g. Radio
- h. Charged hoseline for Fire Fighter protection only

15.0714 Roof Ventilation:

Roof ventilation should be carried out in any commercial building involved in significant fire. The vent hole(s) shall be made as closely as safely possible to the main body of fire. At least two ladders shall be used in this operation (one may be the aerial ladder).

15.0715 Rapid Intervention Team:

When interior fire attack occurs within a structure, a Rapid Intervention Team shall be assigned by the Incident Commander. The RIT Team shall secure the necessary equipment needed to perform an effective and efficient removal of personnel should they experience trouble. It will be the

responsibility of the RIT Team leader to stay apprised with the probable location of all personnel who are operating within the structure. It will be critical to coordinate RIT Team activities with the Incident Commander along with the scene Safety Officer. See RIT Procedures located in Section 4.34.

15.0716 Secondary Search:

As soon as possible a secondary search shall be made to verify that there are no occupants in the building. The results of this search shall be transmitted to the Incident Commander.

15.0717 Forcible Entry:

Look for a Knox Box! Members of the ladder truck or rescue company should be prepared to force open doors, locked gates, windows, etc. to provide for access to the building. Truck/Rescue Company personnel must carry with them forcible entry equipment such as axes, pike poles, pry bars, and halligan tools. Entry must be made in the quickest and most cost-effective manner.

15.0718 Utility Control:

All utilities with the exception of natural gas shall be controlled by the appropriate utility companies. One firefighter must be assigned to close the gas valve off at the meter if a fire is found. The valve can normally be found on the lower left side of the meter at or near grade level.

15.0719 Property Conservation:

Property conservation measures should begin as soon as possible to reduce the property loss by fire, heat, and smoke. Property conservation efforts are to be performed by personnel when staffing levels and conditions permit salvage operations to begin. Salvage covers should be used to protect valuables and to prevent further damage by water and smoke.

15.0720 Overhaul:

When the fire has been confined and/or declared under control, overhaul efforts should begin. At least one handline shall remain in service during overhaul. Overhaul will be continued at the discretion of the incident commander. Ladder company personnel will assist engine company personnel with the task of overhaul. Ladder company personnel must pull walls and ceilings that have been exposed to fire to prevent a rekindle. Use of the thermal imaging camera is essential during overhaul to spot hidden fire without having to open all the walls and ceilings within the structure.

15.0721 Safety:

The safety of fire department personnel is of the utmost concern. No member shall be permitted to take part in fire suppression activities unless that person is wearing full protective clothing including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). SCBAs shall be worn at all times on the interior of the building during fire suppression activities--including during overhaul. SCBAs shall be worn until it can be determined that the level of carbon monoxide in the structure is at a safe level. At that time the Incident Commander can grant permission to the operating crews to remove their SCBAs.

All injuries to fire fighters shall be reported immediately to the company officer and required medical attention given. Personnel Accountability and an Ambulance Standby are particularly important during a commercial property fire (especially if mutual aid is utilized).

15.0722 Crew Units:

Crews are to stay together. If their Company Officer is assigned another detail, a crew leader will be first designated. It is imperative that units operate as teams at commercial property incidents!

15.0723 Greater Alarms:

Depending of life hazards and the fire situation present, an additional Engine and a Ladder Company should seriously be considered for Staging.

