

BASEMENT FIRES

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for incidents involving basement fires. In addition to the Structural Fire Protocol, the following considerations should be factored.

PROCEDURE

1. **Conduct a quick recon, look for the best access and egress.**
 - A. Perform a complete 360, use a thermal imager if possible
2. **Determine the best method for ventilation of the smoke and gases:**
 - A. Consider removing window(s) in a room above the fire.
 - B. Cut a ventilation hole in the floor and close the door to the room.
 - C. Put exposure lines in place and PPV to the house.
3. **Secure utilities (gas and electric) if possible prior to entry.**
4. **Initiate fire attack simultaneously with the primary search:**
 - A. Use distributing or piercing nozzles for initial knockdown.
 - B. Coordinate attack with ventilation efforts.
 - C. Always deploy a back-up crew and hose line.
 - D. Ensure crews have search lines and use accountability.
5. **Track entry times and personnel closely.**
6. **Constantly evaluate the structure, fire behavior, and progress.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- If crews cannot locate the seat of the fire quickly, strongly consider pulling

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personnel out to reevaluate tactics and consider risk/benefit of future operations.