

STRUCTURAL FIRE OPERATIONS

STRUCTURAL FIRE OPERATIONS - GENERAL

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures to support effective structural firefighting operations using the Think-Plan-Act model.

PROCEDURE

1. Arrival and Size-up

The first arriving company will perform a size-up on arrival and communicate the following:

- A. Type of building/occupancy.
- B. Specific conditions (e.g., smoke, fire, victims, and location of each).
- C. Initial mode. (Offensive, defensive, transitional or rescue)
- D. Command status (Investigating, passing, mobile)
- E. Order additional alarms / resources as needed.

2. Tactical Priorities – Primary

Objective	Benchmark Communicated to IC
Rescue	Primary search complete.
Fire Control	Fire under control.
Loss Control	Switching to Salvage / Overhaul

3. Tactical Priorities – Rescue

- A. Consider:
 - i. The number, location and condition of the victims.
 - ii. The effect the fire has on the victims.
 - iii. The capability of the available resources to enter the building, remove/protect victims, and control the fire.
- B. Rescue Mode – Known rescue and crews are making an aggressive search. Must be benchmarked to dispatch.
- C. Conduct a primary and secondary search in all involved and exposed occupancies.
- D. The completion of the primary search **will be** reported to the Incident Commander utilizing the term “primary search complete.”
- E. The completion of the secondary search **will be** reported utilizing the term “secondary search complete.” The Incident Commander will communicate the benchmark, “all clear” to dispatch.

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- F. In some cases, occupants are safer in their rooms than moving through contaminated hallways and interior areas. Such movement may also impede interior firefighting.

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4. Tactical Priorities – Fire Control

- A. Stabilize fire conditions whenever possible through the use of a well-placed, interior fire attack. This should be supported with resources and actions required to reduce fire extension and to bring the fire under control.
- B. A critical Command decision, both initial and on-going, relates to the offensive/transitional/defensive mode of the situation:
 - i. Offensive Mode – *Interior* attack and related support quickly bringing the fire under control.
 - ii. Transitional Mode – *Transitional* attack involves changing from offensive to defensive or defensive to offensive.
 - iii. Defensive Mode – *Exterior* attack directed to first reduce fire extension and then bring the fire under control.

Incident Command will communicate the mode of operation to all personnel on the fire ground.

- C. Incident Command should consider the most probable direction of fire extension, particularly as it affects rescue, confinement, and exposure protection, and allocate resources based upon this evaluation.
- D. Initial attack efforts should be directed toward supporting the primary search.
- E. If the structure is deemed lost, or the fire is beyond the control of the immediately available resources, protect exposures and routes of egress before directly attacking the fire.
- F. Anytime Incident Command changes the mode of operation it will be communicated to all personnel on-scene & benchmarked with dispatch.
- G. If the order for withdrawal or abandonment has been given, Incident Command will account for the safety of all personnel by conducting a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
- H. The completion of bringing the fire under control is reported utilizing the standard radio reporting term, “fire under control.”

5. Tactical Priorities – Salvage & Overhaul

- A. When basic fire control has been achieved, Command should direct companies into “stop loss” activities:
 - i. Communicate “loss stopped” to dispatch.
 - ii. Evaluate damage to overall fire area.
 - iii. Evaluate the salvage value of various areas.
 - iv. Evaluate the personnel and equipment that will be required.
 - v. Commit the required companies to salvage functions.
 - vi. Reduce hose lines from fire control functions to salvage functions.

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- vii. Continue air-monitoring.

- B. The provision of salvage functions must be integrated into the cause determination phase. When fire control becomes stable, back fire control companies out and let fire investigators develop a plan.
- C. Overhaul must be coordinated with your Fire Investigation. It may be necessary to control spot fires until the investigators have had an opportunity to do their work, before digging out and completely extinguishing non-threatening fires.
- D. Check all avenues of fire spread for extension using all means necessary.
- E. Consider leaving units as a fire watch until absolutely certain there is no possibility of a rekindle.
- F. It will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to assure all fires are investigated.

Typical company functions:

- A. Search, rescue, and treatment.
- B. Stretch and pump hose lines (utilize water supply to best advantage).
- C.. RIT.
- D. The second-in Engine Company should consider utilizing alternative routes when approaching the incident location.
- E. Truck Companies should always consider placement for maximum use of their aerial device.
- F. Typical tasks:

Inside

Forcible Entry
Search & Rescue
Locate the Fire
Confine the Fire
Extinguish the Fire
Inside Utilities
Salvage & Overhaul

Outside

Aerial Operations
Multiple Means of Egress
Ventilation
Outside Rescue
Outside Utilities
Recon for IC
Salvage & Overhaul