

15.07 Scope:

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

15.0701 First engine placement:

Positioning of the engine is the responsibility of the driver. The engine shall be positioned keeping the following factors in mind:

Location of fire in building;
Access to building;
Keep the front of building open for the truck company.

Generally on small to medium size commercial properties, the engine shall position just past the building, leaving the front of the building open for the truck company.

Sprinklered property: Positions at Fire Department Connection and Driver/Operator anticipates connection of the standpipe/sprinkler system; however the engine does not connect until a "Working Fire" is confirmed.

15.0702 First engine to arrive (water supply):

On smoke showing, visible fire or confirmed "working fire", the first arriving engine shall forward lay a Large Diameter Hose (LDH) 5 inch 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 team to investigate the condition of the reported fire building (hydrant person & driver/operator should stay with the engine) Positioning at the nearest fire hydrant shall only be done if the distance is 300 feet or less from the fire building.

15.0703 Catching the hydrant:

The first arriving engine company should stop at the nearest fire hydrant prior to the reported building on fire. The "Lead-Off" firefighter with a portable radio shall remove the LDH, hydrant accessory bag and wrap the hydrant. Once the "Lead-Off" firefighter has secured the hose around the hydrant he/she shall signal the driver of the first arriving engine to proceed to the fire. The "Lead-Off" firefighter shall wait until the Driver signals to charge the LDH. After the line is charged, the "Lead-Off" person will proceed to the fire counting the sections of hose and checking the hose connections.

15.0703 Fire Brigade or Emergency Response Team:

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

15.0704 Rescue:

Life safety is the #1 priority. A primary search should be conducted immediately it is also imperative that a hose line 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. 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. If staffing permits, the rescue should be carried out while a hose line is being advanced to the seat of the fire. Members advancing the hose line to the fire area can search that area as well as extinguishing or controlling the fire.

Any emergency medical care should be provided to the occupants of the residence as soon as possible, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Any working fire requires the presence of an EMS on location.

15.0705 Fire control:

In order to establish a safe and an efficient fire ground operation, the Incident Commander shall appoint an Operation Section Chief.

At least two (2) hose line shall be advanced to the seat of the fire. The line chosen shall never be less than 1-3/4 inches in diameter. In most cases the fire attack should be made from the unburned side of the building. In many cases, the line can be advanced through the front door of the building. From this point, access is usually available to all areas of the building. The number of lines to be used will be the choice of the Operation Section Chief and depend directly on the nature and size of the fire encountered. A Rapid Intervention Team is necessary to potentially rescue the fire attack team.

15.0706 Second arriving engine:

Sprinklered properties: The second engine shall report to the first arriving engine at the Fire Department Connection and position itself to reverse lay LDH from the first engine to the water source.

Non-sprinklered properties: The second arriving engine shall locate an alternative water source and stand-by for further instructions from the Incident Commander. The crew from the second arriving engine may be utilized for rescue, additional hand-line placement, fire suppression, truck operations or as the Operations section chief instructs them for the control or mitigation of the incident.

15.0707 Truck company positioning:

The Truck Company will most often position in the front of the building. Positioning will normally be the responsibility of the truck company officer, if not assigned by the Operations section chief. Positioning of the Truck Company will also be based on the size of the building, location of the fire, access, etc. It may also be advantageous to position on a corner of the building in order to sweep two sides. On commercial properties, positioning shall 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

15.0708 Truck company operations:

After arriving on location, the truck company officer shall report to the Operation Section Chief for further instructions. It will be the responsibility of the Truck OIC, to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although earlier arriving engine companies may have already implemented some of the duties, it will be the responsibility of the Truck OIC 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 shall be provided by the second or third arriving engine using large diameter hose (LDH). Allow positioning to accommodate water supply set-up.

15.0709 Rescue company operations:

After arriving on location, the rescue company officer shall report to the Operation Section Chief for further instructions it will be the responsibility of the Rescue OIC, to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although earlier arriving engine companies and/or truck companies may have already implemented some of the duties, it will be the responsibility of the Rescue OIC 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.

15.0710 Primary search:

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

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 team 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 teams operating above the fire should do so with the protection of a hand line. This will provide protection for the firefighters 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. Firefighters performing the primary search must have forcible entry tools with them to force open locked doors or to aid the escape of the firefighter 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 the 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 of victims are located, this should be communicated to the operation sections chief immediately. Victims should be removed via the interior stairway, if at all possible, or the closest exit point. Ladders should be used only if passage down the stairway is not possible.

15.0711 Ventilation:

Ventilation should be one of the early priorities! Ventilation must be performed. Ventilation facilitates rescue, fire control and property conservation. Ventilation shall not occur until attack lines have been charged. If the location of the fire cannot be determined, the safety of the interior teams or victims may be compromised. The Operation Section Chief will determine the need for vertical or horizontal ventilation. This task will normally be conducted by the truck company but could be conducted by the second arriving engine team if necessary.

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.

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. Sledge Hammer
- B. Pike Poles (10' and/or 12')
- C. Power saws
- D. Rope
- E. Flashlights
- F. Roof Ladders(s)
- G. Radio
- H. Charged hose line for fire fighter protection only.

Prior to roof ventilation activities, at least two ladders must be raised to the roof. Depending on access, the truck can be positioned to the roof and a ground ladder placed as a secondary means of egress. One large opening should be made rather than two smaller ones. Care shall be taken not to cut or damage the supporting roof support systems. If the roof shows conditions of collapse, (sagging, separation of roof and walls, large cracks or openings around ducts, chimneys, etc.), vent from the aerial device. Operation Section Chief must be notified at once. Once the opening(s) have been made, be sure to remove any ceilings to ensure ventilation is accomplished in the attic or upper most floors. Once ventilation is complete, retreat from the roof and report to Operation Section Chief that ventilation is complete.

15.0712 Rapid Intervention Team:

When interior fire attack occurs within a structure, the Incident Commander shall assign a RIT team to the Operation Section Chief. 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 rapid intervention team activities with the Operation Section Chief along with the scene Safety Officer and the Accountability Director.

For large operations as is the case with Industrial Properties, the Incident Commander or RIT team leader may request additional units to assist with Rapid Intervention Team assignments. The need for additional RIT personnel may be due to the size of the property or lack of sufficient manpower by the RIT team. In the event that more than one RIT team is operating on the scene, all personnel shall operate under the RIT team leader.

15.0713 Secondary search:

A secondary search must be started on the fire building as soon as or shortly after the primary search is completed. All areas should be checked thoroughly for anyone who may have survived the fire or for any victims who may have been missed during the primary search. The Truck OIC shall inform the Operation Section Chief that the secondary search has been complete.

15.0714 Forcible entry:

Look for a KNOX BOX! The truck and/or rescue companies should be prepared to force open doors, locked gates, windows, removal of bars, etc. to provide for access to the building. Truck/Rescue company personnel shall carry with them forcible entry equipment such as axes, pike poles, pry bars, halligan bars, saws, etc. Entry shall be made in the quickest and most cost-effective manner.

15.0715 Utility control:

The appropriate utility companies shall be notified. Truck company firefighter can secure the gas and electrical utilities.

15.0716 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.

15.0717 Overhaul:

When the fire has been confined and/or declared under control, overhaul efforts should begin. At least one hose line shall remain in service during overhaul. Overhaul will be continued at the discretion of the Operation Section Chief. Truck company personnel will assist engine company personnel with the task of overhaul. Truck company personnel must pull walls and ceilings that have been exposed to fire to search for hidden fire prevent a rekindle. Use of a thermal imaging camera is essential during overhaul to spot hidden fire without having to open all the walls and ceilings within the structure. Consider starting the investigation before overhaul. This may limit the destruction of evidence during overhaul.

15.0718 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). SCBA(s) shall be worn at all times on the interior of the building during fire suppression activities--including during overhaul. SCBA(s) 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 Operation Section Chief can grant permission to the operating teams to remove their SCBA(s).

All injuries to fire fighters requiring medical attention shall be reported immediately to Incident Commander.

15.0719 Team Units:

Teams are to stay together. If their Officer is assigned another detail, a team leader will be designated before the Officer is reassigned. It is imperative that units operate as teams at commercial property incidents.

15.0720 Greater Alarms:

Depending on life hazards and the fire situation present, at a minimum an additional Engine and Truck company shall seriously be considered for staging.