

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Township of Cumru Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines
Section: 15.09

HIGH RISE PROPERTIES

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Definition:

A building, equal to or higher than 65 feet (six stories). This SOG may be initiated by a Command Officer for any building which presents similar problems.

Strategic Concerns:

A high rise building presents several fire suppression problems such as:

- Logistics and time required to access upper floors, with manpower and equipment.
- Construction complexities
- Occupancy types and number
- Delayed alarm due to lack of detection/suppression systems

Tactical Concerns:

The preferred method of rescue and fire attack is a coordinated interior attack combining the following at a minimum:

- Operating Incident Command System (ICS)
- Hose stream advancement and water supply
- Evacuation of numerous occupants
- Ventilation of heat and smoke
- Possible numerous fire floors
- Rotation and replacement of suppression forces

Response Initial alarm:

2-Engines (1st and 2nd due)
1-Truck (1st due)

1st Due Engine

- Report to the FD Sprinkler Connection
- The driver/operator shall position the engine to anticipate the connection of the standpipe/sprinkler system; however, they shall not connect at this time.
- Crew to make up the Fire Verification Team (Suppression)

1st Due Truck

- Report to building await for further instructions
- The driver/operator shall position the truck to anticipate aerial operations, if needed
- Crew to make up the Fire Verification Team (Search, Rescue, Ventilation)

2nd Due Engine

- Report to 1st Due Engine stand-by to reverse lay to hydrant for a water supply
- If “**working fire**” is announced, crew report to two floors below fire floor (Establish Staging Area)

First arriving officers' duties:

Identify fire floor and apartment.

Establish ICS and the command post in the lobby or at the grade level entrance, and inform the communications center to the location of the command post and request a fire ground channel.

Recall all elevators to the ground floor.

Designate what stairways will be used for evacuation. It will be necessary to designate stairways by letter for easier identification.

Secure all building keys from the Knox box.

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Fire verification team, duties and required equipment:

This team will consist of personnel from the first arriving engine and truck companies - one officer (or team leader) and up to four firefighters. The primary objective of the Fire Verification Team is to reach the upper stories of the high-rise and confirm the exact location of the fire or problem, extent of the fire, and the overall conditions of the situation. With this information, the IC will be better able to assess as to whether he/she will be able to contain the fire with the resources or declare a "working fire" which will require additional resources.

The Fire Verification Team also must check two (2) floors below the actual fire floor so that it can be used as a Staging Area. This information must be relayed to the IC as soon as possible.

If a Staging Area is establish, the IC shall designate an Operations Chief.

The team shall have the following equipment:

- Portable radio(s)
- SCBA(s)
- Water extinguisher
- High-Rise Pack
- Ax and Halligan bar
- Pike poles
- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
- Master keys to building (if available)

The remaining companies responding on the initial alarm shall report on the scene and remain uncommitted and clear of the fire building.

Response "Working" fire:

When a "working" fire is evident or the Fire Verification Team verifies the report of a working fire, the IC shall contact the Communication Center and announce a "working" fire and request a first & second alarm assignment.

2-Engine (3rd due, 4th due)
2-Truck (2nd due, 3rd due)
Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

3rd Due Engine

- Driver/Operator report to building wait for further instructions (Stand-by to replace engine at FD connection if the engine fails.)
- Crew check-in with Operations Chief (Staging Area) and report to floor above fire floor (Fire Suppression)

4th Due Engine

- Driver/Operator report to building wait for further instructions (Stand-by to reverse lay to second water source.)
- Crew check-in with Manpower Group. Wait for further instructions.

2nd Due Truck

- Driver/Operator report to building wait for further instructions
- Crew check-in with Operations' Chief (Staging Area) and report to floor above fire floor (Search, Rescue & Ventilation)

3rd Due Truck

- Driver/Operator report to building wait for further instructions
- Crew check-in with Manpower Group. Wait for further instructions.

Operating above the fire floor:

Crews operating above the fire floor are operating at a greater risk. One firefighter shall be positioned at the stairway door at all times and keep in contact with the Operations' Chief. This firefighter shall keep track of all personnel operating above the fire floor.

Members above the fire shall search the floors above for any additional fires; provide ventilation of the fire floor and floors above the fire and search for extension of the fire. If one stairway is used for ventilation, the vents in the roof shall be opened from the inside.

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

- Driver/Operator report to building await for further instructions
- Crew check-in with Operations Chief or Safety Officer (2 floors below the fire floor) and await further orders.

Rescue Company Operations:

IC shall establish a Logistic Chief. It will be his/hers responsibility 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 Logistic Chief to coordinate the remaining activities to ensure they will be completed. The following are some of the activities or duties that must be addressed:

- Salvage
- Utility control
- Refill and transport air bottles

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Driver/Operator report to building await for further instructions
Crew check-in with IC (Command Post) and await further orders.

Manpower Group:

Incident Command shall establish a Manpower Group and location. As addition manpower arrival on location, report to the Manpower Supervisor.

Elevators:

If a fire has been confirmed on the upper floor of a high-rise building, movement of firefighters and support equipment will be extremely slow without the use of an elevator. An elevator may be used by fire department personnel with the following restrictions:

- At no time will the elevator be used by fire department personnel unless it is in the Fire Service Mode.
- If the elevator cannot be placed in the Fire Service Mode IT SHALL NOT BE USED.
- All personnel entering the elevator car MUST wear SCBAs with the face-piece in place.
- The operation of the elevator car in the Fire Service Mode will be performed by fire department personnel only.
- There shall be no more than five (5) firefighters plus their equipment in each car.
- A halligan or pry bar must be in the elevator car.
- The elevator car must be stopped at two (2) floor intervals to make sure the elevator is under fire department control.
- All personnel shall exit the elevator car at least three (3) floors below the fire floor.
- At least one firefighter with 2-way radio shall remain in the elevator car at all times when the elevator is placed in the Fire Service Mode.

Breathing apparatus:

All personnel going above the lobby or grade level shall be equipped with SCBA. The cylinder with harness shall be donned with the shoulder and waist straps pulled tight. The cylinder valve shall be in the on position. The breathing tube shall be connected to the regulator and the face-piece suspended from the firefighter, ready for immediate use. **Elevator operations MUST wear SCBAs with the face-piece in place.**

Summary:

The fighting of a high-rise fire presents a variety of problems that must be dealt with by the Incident Commander. The key to successful operations at a high-rise fire depends on the fact that every firefighter is familiar with the overall high-rise operational guidelines. The company officer plays a pivotal role; the officer must know the basic fundamentals of firefighting and be able to confidently make decisions based on the fire situation and the operation of the high-rise guidelines. If any one of the components of the guideline begins to breakdown, the chances for injury and/or death increase dramatically. Read and become familiar with every duty and responsibility of this SOG for your safety as well as the safety of your fellow fire fighters.

Glossary:*Command Post:*

The operations and communications center for the operation of a major incident. Location for all command staff to meet at the scene of an emergency.

Divisions:

Each Floor is a Division - An Engine Company working on the 5th floor is referred to as Division 5!

Fire Service Mode:

The controlling of an elevator so that floor call buttons cannot call it.

Staging Area:

The staging area is located two (2) floors below the fire floor, where the Operations Chief is located.

High-Rise:

A building, equal to or higher than 65 feet (six stories). This SOG may be initiated by a command officer for any building which presents similar problems.

Incident Commander (IC):

The Commanding Officer at any incident. IC is responsible for all activities at the scene of an emergency.

Rest and Rehabilitation Area:

Area of rest for the fire fighters located in the Support Area.

Side A:

The address side the fire building (unless specifically designated by the IC).

Side B:

The left side of the fire building.

Side C:

The rear of the fire building.

Side D:

The right side of the fire building.

Support Area:

An area three floors below the fire floor used for the purpose of assembling fire fighters and equipment to be used on the fire floor.