

15.05 Scope:

This procedure will provide an organized method in which to carry out the fire ground functions in a timely and safe manner. Discussed will be the rescue procedures, initial fire attack and line placement, safety, and fire ground organization. Most firefighter injuries/fatalities occur at one and two family dwelling fires!

15.0501 Terms:

Primary search: A search that is made to quickly locate and remove potential victims or occupants when firefighters initially arrive on the scene of an emergency. The emphasis is on quickness and being thorough.

Secondary search: A search that is begun after the fire is under control or has been extinguished. The search is conducted to verify the fact that no one has been missed during the primary search.

Standardized search pattern: A method of searching a fire building or area that covers the area to be searched in a complete systematic manner. All turns are made in the same direction every time a door or other opening is encountered.

Team leader: Officer or designated firefighter responsible for a team.

15.0502 First engine to arrive (fire attack):

On smoke showing, visible fire or confirmed "working fire", the first arriving engine shall forward lay a Large Diameter Hose (LDH) (4 or 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)

15.0503 Catching the hydrant:

The first arriving engine company shall stop at the nearest or best hydrant prior to proceeding to the building on fire. The "Lead-Off" firefighter (with portable radio) shall remove the LDH and hydrant accessory bag and wrap the hydrant. Once they have secured the hose around the hydrant the "Lead-Off" person shall signal the driver of the first arriving engine to precede to the fire. The "Lead-Off" person 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.

15.0505 Engine company positioning:

Positioning of the engine is the responsibility of the driver. The driver should position the apparatus for optimum efficiency. When positioning the engine for a one or two family dwelling fire, the driver should try to position the engine on Side A (front) of the building making sure to allow available space for the truck company.

15.0506 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.

15.0507 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 one 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 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 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.

15.0508 Search and rescue:

At least a team of two firefighters will always be assigned this task by the Operation Section Chief. In the average one or two family dwelling, two firefighters will be able to quickly search and locate victims.

15.0509 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 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 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. All searches must be made using the standardized 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 hose line. A 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 in 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, fire fighters 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 may indicate people have not escaped the fire (**see Figure 1**). If occupants or victims are located, this should be communicated to the Operation Section Chief immediately.

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

15.0510 Standardized search pattern:

All fire fighters performing a primary search shall use a standardized search pattern with all turns to be made in the same direction as identified by the search team officer or team leader upon entering the structure (**see Figure 2**). The sequence to be used in searching the fire building will be made as follows: the fire area, floor above the fire, the very top floor, and all other floors working down from the very top floor.

The use of a standardized search pattern will provide a systematic method to completely search a building or area. Should a firefighter become disorientated or lost, they must inform the Operation Section Chief or Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) leader what direction that the team turned upon entering the structure so the RIT team may already know their possible location from the search patterns they will have used.

15.0511 Second engine arriving (alternate water supply):

The primary responsibility of the second arriving engine company will be to ensure that the first arriving engine has a sufficient and uninterrupted water supply. If a Humat valve is on the hydrant the second engine should connect to the valve/hydrant and be prepared to supplement the water supply to the first engine. If there is no humat valve on the hydrant the second engine should find an alternate water supply for the fire scene and stand-by for further instructions.

Firefighters arriving with this engine shall proceed to the fire scene. If a back-up hose line has not been established this should be the first priority of this team. If a back-up line is not needed then this team can assume search & rescue responsibilities before the truck company arrives. If the truck company is in service, this team can assume the role of RIT.

15.0512 Truck company positioning:

The positioning of the truck shall be the responsibility of the truck company officer, if not assigned by Incident Commander. The first arriving truck company will normally take up a position at side A (front) of the fire building unless directed otherwise.

15.0513 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.

15.0514 Ladders:

The primary functions of the truck company is rescue and ventilation, however, other truck duties must be performed in conjunction with rescue. Many of the duties you will perform will aid in rescue or will greatly facilitate the rescue process.

If occupants are visible at the windows, roofs, or porches, they should be rescued immediately by the use of ground ladders. If people are not visible, ground ladders must be used anyway. Ladders positioned for rescue and/or egress should be placed at every window above the first floor.

15.0515 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.

15.0516 Secondary search:

A secondary search must be started of 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 completed.

15.0517 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. Positive pressure ventilation could be used but there are risks involved with utilizing positive pressure ventilation. 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 a roof ladder that extends from peak to eave or 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.

Positive pressure ventilation is highly recommended if possible.

15.0518 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT):

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.

15.0519 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.

15.0520 Forcible entry:

All truck/rescue company firefighters should be prepared to perform forcible entry. All firefighters must have forcible entry equipment such as axes, sledge hammer, pry bars, and halligan tools. Entry must be made in the quickest and most cost effective manner.

15.0521 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.

15.0522 Utility Control:

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

15.0523 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.

15.0524 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.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Township of Cumru Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines
Section 15.05

ONE & TWO FAMILY DWELLING

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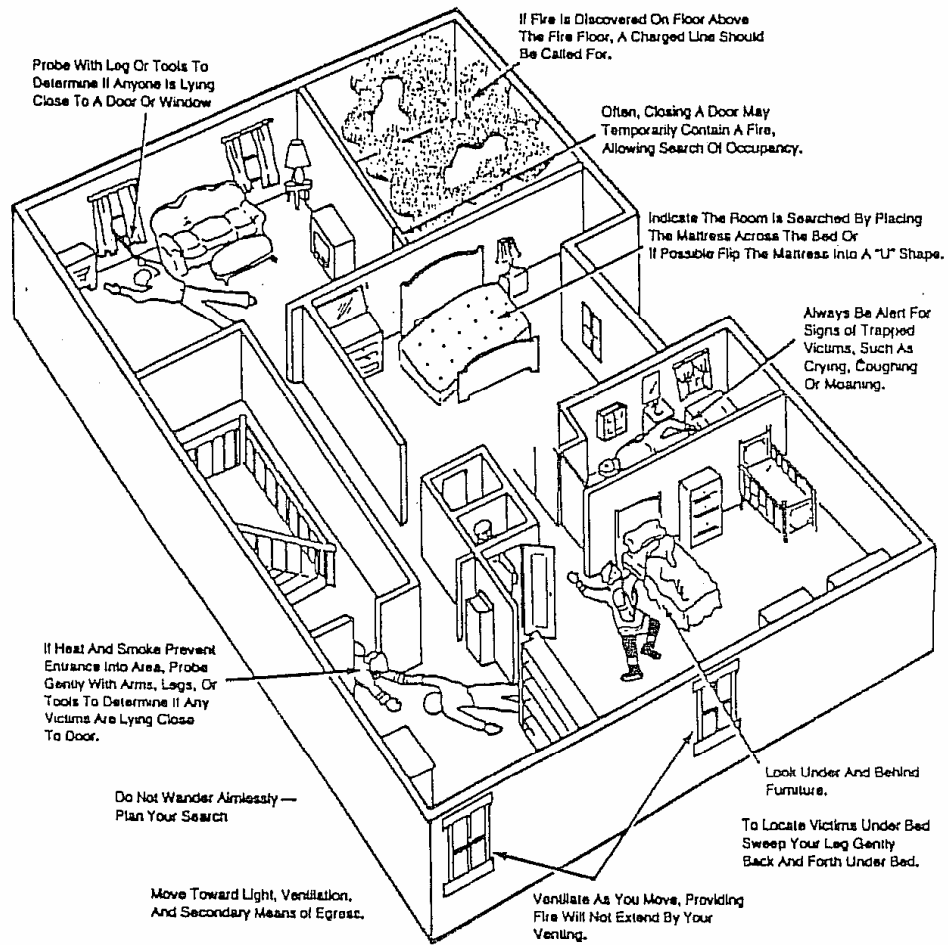
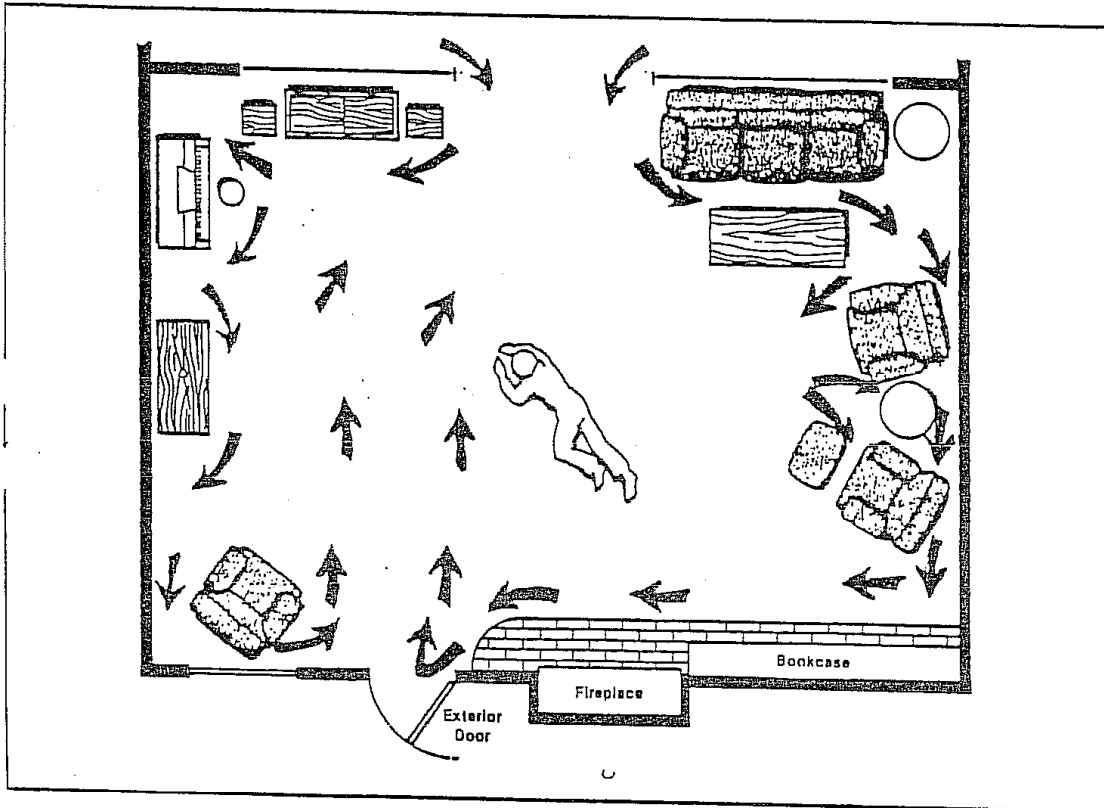


Figure 1



These areas should be swept with a tool or contact of some kind must be kept with the wall. i.e. partner against the wall (audible or visual contact).

A standardized search procedure where all turns are made in the same direction.

Figure 2