

## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 4.5.1**

### **TOPIC - FIRE - STRUCTURE**

#### **PURPOSE:**

To provide a standard approach to all structure fires promoting smooth transitions from the beginning to the end of each specific incident.

#### **GENERAL:**

Each structure fire will have similar elements requiring similar actions to bring the emergency under control. Whenever we view each structure fire in a standard manner, each having a standard approach, we gain the opportunity to become more flexible in our decision making process. The combination of flexibility to deal with the unknown elements, and a standard approach to routine considerations will enable us to achieve a successful outcome of the incident.

#### **GUIDELINE:**

##### **RESPONSE AND ARRIVAL**

1. Staff apparatus based upon standard resource requirements established in SOG 1.2.1, and the capabilities of available personnel. Be sure to staff the first out engine adequately.
2. Respond in compliance with SOG 1.1.1, choosing the most efficient route of travel and considering the response routes of other apparatus.
3. Based upon the sequence of events in relation to your arrival follow the appropriate operating guidelines, establish command and make assignments, or receive an assignment from command.
4. Listen for an adequate response. Request additional resources as soon as you have identified the potential for their need.
5. Commit only essential resources, stage uncommitted resources, and provide for a tactical reserve.

##### **OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. All assignments must be made supporting accomplishment of standard tactical priorities. Tactical priorities must be considered in the established order of importance; with Life Safety being number one, Scene Control as number two, and finally Property Conservation.
2. Develop teams to meet assignment and safety requirements. Teams are made up of two or more persons.
3. Interior fire fighting requires firefighters to be in direct voice or visual

contact with their team members at all times.

4. Prior to interior teams making entry into a structure where the fire has developed beyond the incipient stage, there shall be a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) assigned, who is outside the structure, and ready to perform a rescue. The only permissible deviation of the prior assignment of a RIT is whenever there exists a known life hazard situation where immediate action could prevent a loss of life.
5. Assess ventilation profile of the structure and make team assignment(s) based upon the most effective ventilation method to support the tactical priority in effect at that moment.
6. Gain control of utilities. Shut off gas supply, evaluate necessity of shutting of electricity, etc.
7. Select size, quantity, and placement of hose lines to protect avenues of access and escape, and to control all aspects of the fire.
8. Provide access to structure and necessary rooms.
9. Provide for a primary search assigning at least one team per floor of the structure. Conduct secondary search after scene control is established.
10. Evaluate effects of the fire and by-products of combustion on exposures and other down-wind areas.
11. Initiate salvage operations as soon as personnel and equipment become available.
12. Monitor carbon-monoxide levels prior to permitting removal of SCBA.
13. Conduct overhaul operations checking for and extinguishing extensions of the fire. Be certain that all of the fire is out prior to leaving the scene.
14. Reduce committed resources as circumstances allow.
15. Provide for fire cause investigation. Gain written permission to re-enter the property for this purpose whenever necessary.

#### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Use Passport Accountability System.
2. Assign a safety officer.

3. Assign a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) for each significant area of the structure during interior operations. Significant areas of the structure may mean widely separated areas where entry is made on each floor level.

**NOTE:** RIT personnel may be assigned to other tasks provided that they are able to discontinue those activities immediately upon notification that they are needed to perform a rescue of firefighters who are inside the structure.

4. Establish back up hose lines.
5. Establish a rehabilitation area and process.
6. Recognize and communicate hazards: Collapse, explosion, backdraft potential, electrical, haz-mat, etc.
7. Continuously monitor structural conditions and the effectiveness of operations.
8. Coordinate interior and exterior hose lines.
9. Operate within the established action plan, no free-lancing.
10. Every person operating on the emergency scene must have the appropriate level of protective gear and training to perform the assigned task.