



Buxton Fire-Rescue

Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Structural Fire (3)

Section: Chimney Fires (1)

Date Approved: October 25, 2013

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Purpose:

To establish a guideline for the safe operation of the department at Chimney Fires.

Procedure:

First Arriving Engine:

The first arriving engine will setup on the side that they will be entering; access to the front of the building must be left for Ladder Operations. The officer or senior firefighter and his or her crew will proceed to the solid wood burning appliance. The crew will check the floors, walls and other areas around the appliance for fire extension or related heat buildup/transfer. A thermal imaging camera should be used to complete the investigation. A multi gas meter should be used while crews are working to monitor the air for carbon monoxide.

After careful consideration and investigation of fire extension, the crew should extinguish the fire in the appliance (i.e. woodstove) with a fire extinguisher. After the flame has been extinguished all combustible materials should be emptied into a metal bucket, covered, and taken outside to a safe area and dumped.

Once the fire is extinguished in the appliance the crew should continue to the basement or cleanout location. When the crew is in place the flue should be completely cleared of all debris. Debris should be placed into the metal bucket and taken outside to the safe area. The clean out may need to be cleared more than once during operations.

At any time during the incident the engine crew may deploy a hand line to extinguish fire within the building. If the hand line is put in place as a precaution, with no visible or anticipated fire in the building, ensure the hand line is stretched dry and only charged in the event that water must be used.

Second Arriving Engine:

The second arriving engine crew will standby at the nearest water supply (i.e. dry hydrant or cistern). The engine crew shall notify command that they are at the water source and awaiting orders. While awaiting orders the crew can connect to the hydrant and prepare for use.

First Arriving Tanker:

The first arriving Tanker will respond direct to the scene and connect as necessary to the first arriving engine. If the fire transitions from a chimney fire to a structure fire dump tanks may be needed to establish a water supply.

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Ladder Crew:

The officer or senior firefighter and his or her crew will advance to the roof per command (roof tools are not limited to the following: SCBA's, handlight's, chimney weights (porcupine) and at least 1 portable radio). If ground ladders are required to access the roof and chimney area, the roof crew will use a roof ladder for added safety. Command will establish a monitored safety zone for falling objects from the roof.

The ladder crew should work directly with the engine crew when dropping chains (porcupine) to clear creosote from the chimney flue. Both companies should coordinate the operation to ensure the safety of everyone.

Operational Points:

- During operations the homeowner/building owner should not be in the home, or in the hazard area. If they need a warm place to sit, be as accommodating as possible during operations.
- Extinguish the fire in the solid fuel burning appliance. Remove all ashes and unburned logs and place in a pile outside the residence. Ensure that the pile is a safe distance from the building and is in a spot that the homeowner has approved. Also ensure the pile is fully extinguished prior to incident termination.
- Extinguish the fire in the chimney (with chains or by what means necessary to remove creosote buildup from the chimney flue)
- After the chains have been used in the flue, the remaining creosote should be cleaned out of the solid wood burning appliance and the basement cleanout.
- During the operation use appropriate ventilation measures to keep the smoke damage to a minimum.
- Air monitoring should be done during all operations to ensure the atmosphere is not dangerous to firefighters and eventually the homeowners to breath.

Special Considerations:

- If the fire is contained to the chimney and there is no fire extension, interior crews should spread salvage covers to ensure that floors are not scuffed or soiled by the high traffic of firefighters entering and exiting the building to dispose of ash.
- Any problems found with the stove or chimney must be documented and given to the homeowner.
- Keep the manpower inside the residence to a minimum. These incidents have proven to be great Public Relation tools if handled correctly.
- Check all smoke alarms in building before leaving the scene. Replace detectors that are not operational or if no detectors are found give the homeowner a detector.
- If during extinguishment efforts, the crews believe there was damage done to the chimney/flue, or that the chimney/flue is dangerous, this should be noted and the homeowner shall be advised that before future use it shall be repaired/inspected by a qualified person.

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PPE/Equipment:

- Full turnout gear including SCBA
 - PPE: Helmet, eye protection, hood, coat, pants, boots, and gloves
 - SCBA should be used at all times by the Ladder Crew. When the interior crews identify carbon monoxide levels in the building, they shall utilize their SCBA's.
- Multi Gas Meter
- Chimney Kit
- Radio
- Flashlight
- Pressurized Water Can (or appropriate extinguisher)
- Ladder belt or harness (Required if working from an aerial or roof ladder)

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