



# Buxton Fire-Rescue

## Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Structural Fire (3)

Section: Operations at Structure Fires (2)

Date Approved: September 27, 2014

*Nath R. Sles*



### Purpose:

To establish a guideline for the safe and effective deployment of apparatus, personnel, and resources at the scene of structural fires.

### Statement of Importance:

No two fires are the same; no two buildings are the same. This guideline is written to assist the Incident Commander (Command) in managing the incident.

While Recognition Primed Decision Making is a critical component in the Incident Commanders decision making process, the importance of understanding the incident at hand cannot be underemphasized or overstated.

Nothing in this SOG is intended to take away the Incident Commanders authority to or responsibility for assigning resources in order to safely and effectively manage the incident; based on its uniqueness.

### Incident Priorities:

The roles and responsibilities of companies operating at the scene of structural fires will be prioritized by the Incident Commander and reflect the following priorities:

1. Provide for responder safety and survival.
2. Protect, remove, and provide care to endangered occupants.
3. Stabilize the incident.
4. Conserve property and the environment during and after incident operations.
5. Provide short-term services that stabilize and begin to normalize the occupant's lives.

### Incident Operations:

In conjunction with the Incident Priorities, Operations shall be determined by priorities set by R.E.C.E.O. V.S. as listed below:

Rescue	Ventilation
Exposure	
Confinement	
Extinguishment	Salvage
Overhaul	

*Not for use*

## General Guideline:

### First Arriving Unit

The first fire-rescue member shall establish command of the incident. The initial Incident Commander starts the process by giving an initial Size Up that should include:

1. Unit designation of the unit arriving on the scene with address confirmation.
2. Obvious conditions
  - a. Nothing Showing,
  - b. Smoke Showing (from where?),
  - c. Fire Showing (from where?), or
  - d. Working Fire
3. A brief description of the incident situation.
  - a. Height – number of visible stories.
  - b. Occupancy – what the building is used for.
4. Assumption & Announce identification of Command and command mode decision based on [SOG MR 1.1 Incident Command Modes](#).
5. Operational Mode chosen; (Incident NOT the first arriving company)
  - a. Nothing Showing/Investigation Mode, or
  - b. Fast Attack / Offensive Mode, or
  - c. Command Mode, where a formal stationary command post is established
6. Any obvious safety concerns.
7. Brief description of initial company actions

### All Hands/Working Fire

Once it has been determined that there is a fire, in the, or progressing past the incipient stages, The All Hands will be requested by Command to indicate that:

1. The incident is beyond the control of the initial resources dispatched, and
2. The officer is requesting the next alarm assignment
  - a. Typically on the All Hands the following resources are dispatched: 2 – Engines, 3 – Tankers, and 1 – Ambulance (for Rehab).

### Two-In Two-Out/Rapid Intervention

Once the All Hands has been struck a Rapid Intervention Group shall be established; Automatic/Mutual Aid units may be used to staff the RIT Group.

If the fire has been identified as a Working Fire/All Hands, in compliance with [Administrative Policy 2.2 Respiratory Protection Program](#), before interior firefighting operations begin, the initial resources available must support the Two-In Two-Out Requirement, as defined below:

*Not & See*

*“Be supported by, two standby members who are available for immediate rescue of interior firefighters. Each standby member shall be dressed in full-protective clothing and SCBA. The function of one of the standby members shall be the accountability of the firefighters inside the building. The other standby member may assume other duties including OIC or Pump Operator provided this individual is able to perform rescue assistance without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident (2 in – 2 out)”*

In the event that the Command determines the need to perform emergency rescue activities, before the assembly of the entire team, when a known rescue is indicated, Command must:

- Notify Dispatch of entry without the two standby members, and pass command to the next arriving company officer or chief officer (who may be enroute, if not already on scene).
- Enter with or without a charged hand line (as determined by the Officer), perform the Emergency Rescue, and immediately exit the structure.
- After the incident, document in writing, to the Chief, detailed explanation regarding the deviation of policy.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Engine Company(s):

The responsibility of the engine company(s) at the scene shall be to: a) locate, confine and extinguish the fire, b) establish a water supply that supports the required fire flow, and c) search the fire room in coordination with fire companies completing search and rescue operations.

a) Locate, confine and extinguish:

- Command shall establish division/groups to mitigate the fire as determined by the Incident Priorities/Operations.
  - Command should assign a division/group supervisor to each division/group created, and he/she shall be responsible for all resources assigned to that division/group.
  - Command may assign an Operations Section Chief (Operations) who will be responsible for all fire ground operations. When Operations is staffed all divisions/groups should communicate with Operations.
- Companies responsible for fire suppression shall make an appropriate hose line selection as determined by the size, location and extent of the fire; or as directed by Command/Operations; and deploy that hose line as quickly and safely to begin suppression efforts.
  - A backup hose line shall be maintained while actively suppressing fire (e.g. the backup hose line shall be of equal or greater size) or as determined by Command/Operations.
- Companies responsible for fire suppression shall also be required to complete a search of the immediate fire room or area, unless determined otherwise by Command/Operations.

*Not & Lee*

- The division/group supervisor shall report directly to Operations/Command, with situation status reports including: current conditions, what actions the company(s) are taking to suppress the fire, and needs in order to complete assignments.

b) Establish a water supply:

- An engine company may be directed to use its own tank water for initial suppression efforts; and or may be assigned to draft from a portable tank provided by arriving Tankers.
- In situations where there is a hydrant near the scene, the first or second arriving engine may be assigned to lay a supply line from the hydrant to supply water for fire suppression.
  - In situations where there is not a hydrant in close proximity to the scene, the second or later arriving engine will be assigned to draft from a dry hydrant or water source.
  - A backup water supply should be established once an engine is available to draft from a second water source.
    - Tankers shall be used to shuttle water from the water source to the scene, and then dumped in portable tanks at the scene; as directed by Command or the Water Supply Officer (Water Supply). All Tanker radio traffic should be on 154.280 unless otherwise directed.
- The engine company may be directed to supply the quint, another engine, a sprinkler or standpipe connection, or any other apparatus needing water.

c) Search of the fire room:

- Suppression crews shall be responsible for searching the immediate fire room/area.
- In the event of a victim rescue Operations/Command shall be notified immediately and additional resources requested for rescue/removal, as needed.
- Fire suppression should continue during the victim rescue.
- The suppression crew should also consider protecting in place until the immediate hazard is reduced, or until sufficient rescue teams can reach the victim.
- The backup hose line may be requested to continue fire suppression if the initial suppression crew is required to remove the victim.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Ladder Company

The responsibility of the ladder company(s) at the scene shall be: a) Apparatus Positioning, b) forcible entry, c) ventilation, d) search and rescue and e) laddering all sides of the building (especially in those floors and rooms being operated in by interior fire crews).

a) Positioning:

- The first arriving aerial apparatus shall be spotted with the following considerations:
  1. Victim rescue

*Not & See*

2. Ventilation over the seat of the fire.
3. Apparatus spotting consideration is for when the IC chooses the Defensive Mode
  - a. Operator must then spot anticipating Water Tower Operations and exposure protection.

b) Forcible Entry:

- Force doors, windows and other means of entry and exit as determined by incident operations.
- Remove safety/security bars from windows to ensure quick egress for interior companies.
- This may be an ongoing need throughout incident mitigation.

c) Ventilation:

- Horizontal/vertical ventilation as required shall be coordinated with interior crews.
- This may be an ongoing need throughout incident mitigation
- In the overhaul stages of incident mitigation, prior to removal of self-contained breathing apparatus air quality monitoring shall be completed with gas meters.

d) Search and Rescue (S&R):

- This may be completed ahead of a hose line or in coordination with fire suppression.
- Command may determine that a search and rescue group is needed due to the size/complexity of the incident.
- Responsible for search and rescue of trapped victims.
- Laddering the building for rescue, and egress of fire fighters. This should be done on every side of the building as well in areas where there are interior crews operating.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Ambulance

The primary role of the first arriving ambulance will be to render care to injured civilians or firefighters. If there are no reported or suspected injuries, the crew will be utilized to supplement the crew of the engine company or the ladder company.

- Once the first arriving ambulance crew has been assigned to fire operations, they will be relieved of primary EMS responsibilities by the second arriving ambulance, as assigned by the All Hands.

The role of the second arriving ambulance will be to establish an area for rehab of firefighters, and to treat/transport patients from the scene to the hospital.

- There may be situations where Command requests additional ambulances to transport patients leaving the second arriving ambulance to maintain the rehab area.

*Not a SLE*

Roles and Responsibilities of Fire Police

The primary role of Fire Police operating at the scene of structure fires is to control traffic at/near the scene, as well as any locations engine/tankers are using to sustain a water supply, in support of firefighting efforts.

**Required Personal Protective Equipment:**

Personnel assigned to structural fire attack or operating within the immediate working area shall be wearing PPE as defined by [Administrative Policy 11.2 PPE Hazard Assessment](#).

<b>Task</b>	<b>Hazard</b>	<b>PPE Required</b>
<b><u>Interior Structural Firefighting</u></b>	<i>Respiratory, Burns, Blunt Trauma, Abrasions/Lacerations</i>	Turnout Gear including: Helmet, Hood, Coat, Pants, Boots, Gloves
	Super Heated Air	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
	Super Heated Gases	
	Open Flame	
	Carbon Monoxide	
	Hydrogen Cyanide	
	Chemical Exposure	
	Fall/Collapse	
	Smoke	
	Oxygen deficiency	
<b><u>Aerial Ladder Use (During Fire)</u></b>	<i>Respiratory, Burns, Blunt Trauma, Abrasions/Lacerations</i>	Turnout Gear including: Helmet, Hood, Coat, Pants, Boots, Gloves
	Fall	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
	Roof Collapse	Ladder Belt w/ Lanyard
	Super Heated Air	Harness w/ Positioning Hook
	Super Heated Gases	Personal Escape Belt w/ Positioning Hook
	Open Flame	
	Smoke	
	Oxygen deficiency	
<b><u>Ground Ladder Use (During Fire)</u></b>	<i>Fall, Laceration/Abrasion</i>	Turnout Gear including: Helmet, Hood, Coat, Pants, Boots, Gloves
		Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
<b><u>Firefighter Hand Tool Use</u></b>	<i>Blunt Trauma, Laceration, Eye Injury</i>	Turnout Gear including: Helmet, Hood, Coat, Pants, Boots, Gloves
	Hands while prying/forcing	Safety Glasses or Helmet Shield
	Eyes if material splinters/and or tool fails	

*Not a SLE*

Fire Police Personnel responsible for directing traffic at the scene shall wear the following PPE as defined by [Administrative Policy 11.2 PPE Hazard Assessment](#).

<u>Task</u>	<u>Hazard</u>	<u>PPE Required</u>
<b><u>Traffic Control</u></b>	<i>Blunt Trauma, Environmental</i>	Helmet
	Struck by vehicle	Traffic Safety Vest or approved reflective Jacket
		ANSI Reflective Pants
		Reflective Gloves (Orange/Green as indicated)
	Slip	Gloves (weather related)
	Trip	Flashlight with wand
	Fall	Stop Slow Paddle
	Hypo/Hyperthermia	Emergency Scene Ahead sign

**REMOVED**