

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

SERIES 380

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE HIGH RISE

PURPOSE

To establish a guideline that identifies the operational approach for mitigating fire incidents in multi-story structures of five (5) stories or more.

DEFINITIONS

High rise: Multi-story structures that are five (5) stories or more.

Lobby control officer: A control point for firefighting resources located in the lobby of the high-rise structure. The lobby control officer has a significant responsibility for personnel safety, because s/he controls elevators and vertical access routes. During a working incident, this responsibility will probably require assignment of additional personnel.

Staging area: The assembly point where incident personnel, equipment and additional Rapid Intervention Team(s) are maintained awaiting assignment. Requires a staging manager.

Interior staging: Unless otherwise directed by command, shall be established and organized two (2) floors below the fire floor. Depending on the size of the structure, there may be more than one interior staging; therefore, interior staging will be identified by the floor location, ie, interior staging on Floor 6 would be called, "6th Floor Staging.'

Base: Where staffed vehicles are placed awaiting assignment. There must be a base manager established.

Standing by: A temporary parking place chosen by the Company Officer of later arriving first alarm companies while waiting directions from Command. It is located outside or away from the immediate scene. No manager is established for this area. (i.e., Fire Comm, E611 standing by at the corner of 112th ST & Park AV)

PAR: Passport Accountability Report: maintaining continuous contact with assigned crew by voice, vision radio.

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PROCEDURE

I. FIRST ARRIVING UNITS

1. This section provides personnel with basic assignments, procedures, and responsibilities while operating at a high rise structure. Responding companies shall follow these guidelines unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.
2. Company assignments and responsibilities at a high rise building
 - A. FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY
 - (1). Give on scene report.
 - (2). Establish or pass command.
 - (3). Take hose lines, SCBA, and forcible entry equipment to the fire floor as directed by the incident commander.
 - (4). The first company to reach the fire floor shall give a detailed radio report on fire and smoke conditions, actions being taken and the resources needed.
 - (5). (Pump Operator) establishes a water supply and supply standpipe and/or sprinkler system.
 - B. SECOND ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY
 - (1). Assume command, if necessary.
 - (2). Initiate Lobby Control (see lobby control responsibilities).
 - (3). If there is sufficient personnel, help the first arriving engine company establish a water supply and supply the standpipe/sprinklers.
 - C. THIRD ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY
 - (1). Establish an evacuation plan and affect any rescue that has been identified.
 - (2). Establish additional water supply, if needed.
 - (3). Go to interior staging area with extra hose, tools, and SCBA bottles.
 - (4). Designate interior staging area floor number (if not done previously).
 - D. FIRST ARRIVING RESCUE
 - (1). Assist the first arriving engine with rescue and fire attack.
 - E. FIRST ARRIVING LADDER
 - (1). If building is occupied, initiate rescue and support the evacuation plan to include rescue if necessary
 - (2). Go to fire floor with forcible entry equipment and ventilation equipment (to include PPV).

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F. FIRST ARRIVING CHIEF OFFICER

- (1). Establish a command post, confirm the strategy, and establish passport accountability system. (See ICS/IMS section of Tac Ops Manual).
- (2). Consider dispatching an overhead team to fill command positions.

G. ASSIGNMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER(S)

- (1). The first arriving Chief Officer shall relieve the company officer as Incident Commander if he/she deems it's necessary for the overall betterment of the incident and shall deploy that resource to control the emergency.
- (2). The first arriving Chief Officer should be assigned the duties of Incident Commander.
- (3). The second arriving Chief Officer should be assigned the duties of Interior Operations and take a position in the fire building. Once a location has been chosen it will be broadcast over the operations frequency.

H. The Initial arriving units to a fire in the high rise structure should be concerned with immediate priorities.

- (1). **Life Safety**
- (2). Requesting additional resources if there is evidence of fire.
- (3). Establishing Command and Lobby Control.
- (4). Providing, or verifying, continuous water supply.
- (5). Supporting the sprinkler system (if present).
- (6). Identifying the fire floor.
- (7). Providing for the life safety of persons in immediate danger.
- (8). Obtaining keys for interior doors. Distributing keys and floor schematics to crews (if available).
- (9). Recalling and assuming control of the elevators.
- (10). Assessing stairs, designating firefighting/evacuation stairwells.
- (11). Providing for search and extinguishment on the fire floor.
- (12). Providing for firefighter safety, survival, accountability, and welfare.

II. INITIAL ATTACK

1. The initial attack should consist of at least three (3) companies. The officer leading the attack will be responsible for selecting the method of ascent to the reported fire area (elevator, stairs) depending on conditions and safety concerns. The enunciator panel must be checked for fire spread updates prior to ascending to fire floors.
2. As soon as the fire floor is reached and identified, the officer will give Command a report of conditions on the fire floor via the operations frequency, immediate needs, and

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- confirmation of the actual fire floor(s) number. Command should then establish the fire floor as a division (Floor 8 = Division 8).
3. ***At no time will the crew enter an IDLH atmosphere without a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) established within quick access to the fire attack group. Shall be located one floor below the fire attack group.***
 4. When a building has multiple standpipes, the fire floor Division Officer must advise Command where water is needed, and Command will confirm the availability of pumped water to that particular riser.
 5. If Lobby Control has not yet been formally established, at least one member of the initial attack crew will remain in the lobby area as Lobby Control to gain control of all elevators using the Emergency Recall or Fire Department Feature. Lobby Control must maintain accountability for attack companies and their method of ascent.
 6. The Initial Attack companies will go upstairs with appropriate equipment:
 - A. SCBA's
 - B. Spare bottles
 - C. Portable radio's
 - D. Flashlights
 - E. Hose packs/bundle
 - F. Forcible entry tools
 - G. Extinguisher
 - H. Other equipment will be pooled in the lobby until an interior staging area is established.

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. RADIO REPORT
 - A. The first company to reach the fire floor shall give a detailed report describing fire and smoke conditions, actions being taken, and resources needed.
2. USE OF TENANT HOSE LINES
 - A. Tenant hose lines may be utilized anytime they could expedite extinguishment; however, they shall not be used as a substitute for fire department hose and equipment.
3. PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT
 - A. All firefighters shall carry a roll of one inch medical tape or other devices in their bunkers for use of marking searched areas and taping door locks.

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4. EXPOSURE PROTECTION
 - A. Extension of fire should be expected to occur above the original fire floor due to vertical lapping from floor to floor via exterior windows, breaches in floors for utilities, and through spaces between the floors and voids beneath exterior wall coverings.
5. EVACUATION
 - A. Floors that have evacuated shall be indicated by a twelve inch strip of tape on the stairway side of the door.
 - B. If possible, confine firefighting activities to one stairwell.
 - C. Evacuate the fire floor and floors above the fire first; as well as the staging area floor.
6. STANDPIPE CHARGING PROCEDURES
 - A. Five inch hose shall not be used to supply a standpipe because operating pressures could exceed 150 PSI .
 - B. The standpipe will only be used for fires above the third floor, because hose operations would be implemented quicker than standpipe operations.
 - C. The first company ascending the stairway shall check all standpipe valves below the fire floor are closed.
 - D. If water flows down the stairwell from above, you will need to close the open valve(s) above the fire floor.
 - E. Pumpers should utilize hydrants that that will protect them from falling glass.
7. STAGING
 - A. In high-rise structures, the interior staging area will normally be located two floors below the firefighting floor. The location may be adjusted as smoke conditions dictate.
 - B. Interior Staging commences upon the arrival of the first companies on the staging floor. All entering companies shall bring extra equipment, such as air bottles, to the staging floor to establish an equipment supply.
 - C. The Staging Officer: A company officer shall be responsible to initiate operations on the staging floor as personnel become available, coordinate all activities on the staging floor and requesting needed resources from the Incident Commander. The Staging Officer shall attempt to maintain a minimum of one company in standby for each company committed in a contaminated atmosphere.
 - D. The staging area shall be cleared of furniture as needed. Air, equipment, and other areas shall be identified.

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- E. High-Rise Staging Equipment Requirements:
 - (1). All available SCBA cylinders. This shall be the first equipment priority.
 - (2). 400 feet of 2 ½” hose and two nozzles.
 - (3). 400 feet of 1 ¾” hose and two nozzles.
 - (4). 2 each 2 ½” gated wyes.
 - (5). Baby extension or collapsible ladder.
 - (6). 4 pike poles (short).
 - (7). 1 roll of plastic and 6 tarps.
 - (8). Portable hand lanterns.
 - (9). Thermal camera (if available)
- 8. WATER SUPPLY
 - A. Command or the initial arriving engine company on scene should have an engine from the first alarm assignment standing by a hydrant sufficiently close in order to make a timely connection for the standpipe/sprinklers to properly supply the system. In most cases it is best to have the engine at a hydrant away from the risk of falling glass; however in very tall buildings the engine must be located at the base of the structure to assure proper pump pressures. If multiple standpipes exist, hose must be connected to each port. Dry standpipes should be pressurized according to standard hydraulic calculations.
- 9. LOBBY CONTROL
 - A. The Lobby Control Officer reports to the Operations Chief. This officer is responsible for controlling vertical access of personnel via known safe routes, operating the elevators, controlling the air handling system, and coordinating resources between Staging and the Fire Floor.
- 10. ELEVATORS
 - A. Elevators are the most effective means of transporting personnel and equipment in high rise buildings, however, improper use of elevators in a fire situation can expose personnel to serious risk. Elevators SHALL NOT be used until it is determined that the shaft and terminus are not threatened and there will not be disruption of electrical power.
 - B. Lobby Control shall call all elevators to the lobby, using the emergency service control, and secure them there.
 - C. The judgment whether or not the elevators are safe for personnel use will rely heavily on reports from the fire attack officer.

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11. SEARCH AND RESCUE

A. Search and rescue should be completed as follows

- (1). Fire floor
- (2). Floor above the fire
- (3). The rest of the floors above the fire floor (prioritized by conditions and number of occupants).
- (4). Floors below the fire floor
- (5). Consider risk vs. number(s) of occupants. Sheltering in place may be a viable option.

IV. SAFETY

1. In order to minimize the effects of falling glass, the following precautions shall be taken:
 - A. Clear the area around the building a minimum of 200 feet in all directions. (Use police or Campus Security).
 - B. All personnel required to enter the 200 foot zone shall be wearing full protective clothing.
 - C. Ventilation of upper floors will be coordinated with the incident commander to assure that ground level areas have been cleared.
2. Firefighters separated from their companies shall report to the staging area for reassignment if in the building and to manpower if operating outside the building. This assumes the rest of the company is accounted for and is not lost or trapped. Otherwise, a Mayday should be initiated immediately.
3. The elevators shall never be used by Firefighters or occupants during fire conditions. May be used as an equipment shuttle only if conditions dictate.
4. NEVER operate alone. Maintain PAR at all times
5. Maintain full PASSPORT accountability, radio communications.
6. Do not operate on an involved floor without a charged hose line
7. Do not allow doors to lock behind you.
8. Carry the necessary forcible entry tools
9. Be alert to backdrafts. (High rise buildings are tightly sealed buildings)
10. Be cautious of open shafts or windows. Barricade all openings as soon as possible.
11. Monitor your air closely. Egress may change with conditions
12. Keep stairwells clear of unnecessary equipment. They pose a trip hazard.
13. Use anchor points when searching in smoke; i.e., ropes, hoselines
14. Shut off floor electricity as soon as possible at the sub-panel or the main electric room. Be cautious of electricity when breaching walls or pulling ceiling.

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15. Be cautious with back swing when forcing doors and windows in smoke.

V. SUMMARY

1. The officers on the fire floor and the floor above the fire must continuously assess the progress of the fire. If multiple lines are in place, and the control on the fire floor is marginal, a defensive position must be put in place on the next floor up in anticipation of fire extending to that level.
 - A. Determine location and progress of fire.
 - B. Back up lines in place before fire door is opened.
 - C. Assess progress of attack crews.
 - D. Defensive line above fire floor.
 - E. Consider full scale evacuation.
 - F. Initiate floor by floor search.
 - G. Relieve crews on attack lines.
 - H. Check all upper floors for smoke and fire extension.
 - I. Safety check elevators.
2. In the event the fire cannot be controlled, the officers must also advise Command that a full scale evacuation should begin, as there is no safe refuge in the building, especially above the fire, unless the fire floor is controlled.
3. Command at this point must provide for the integrity of the evacuation stairwells and initiate a floor-by-floor search and evacuation of the upper floors. Flowing hoselines, however, cannot be abandoned and Command must also provide for continuous relief on the attack lines.
4. These procedures have outlined the critical objectives and tasks of the first responding units. They are intended to provide the best chance of stopping a serious fire, controlling extension of smoke and fire, and are designed to be placed in operation with the first assignment.

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