

	<h1>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</h1> <h2>Standard Operating Guidelines</h2>
	Subject: Single Family Dwelling Fires
	Reference Number: 2.00
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Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean	

Purpose: The purpose of this standard is to provide guidelines for firefighting operations at single family dwelling fires. These guidelines shall be used by the incident commander along with his/her experience and training, to accomplish this department's strategic goals for an incident of this type.

Scope: This SOG applies to all Commerce Fire Department members.

Terminology:

1. Single family dwelling - Shall be defined as any structure designed and built to be occupied by one (1) family at a time.
2. Primary search - The rapid visual and/or tactical search of all habitable areas of a structure for the purpose of locating any possible occupants. This shall occur during the earliest stages of firefighting operations and in conjunction with ventilation practices and deployment of hose lines. If conditions permit, the following order of search should be implemented:
 - a. Immediate fire area
 - b. The floor immediately above the fire
 - c. Other floors above the fire floor
 - d. Other exposed areas
3. Secondary search - A thorough visual inspection of the same areas searched during the primary search. This should take place when visibility and other conditions have improved and should be performed by a different team of firefighters than the primary search team
4. Ventilation - The act of removing heat, smoke, and fire gases from an involved structure and replacing these with fresh air. This shall be done if possible during the early stages of firefighting operations and in conjunction with primary search and deployment of hose lines. The incident commander may choose the method of ventilation to be implemented based on his/her evaluation of conditions. Accepted methods of ventilation are:
 - a. PPV (positive pressure ventilation)
 - b. Horizontal ventilation
 - c. Vertical ventilation
 - d. Mechanical ventilation
5. RIT (rapid intervention team) - A specifically tasked team (minimum of four members) organized to provide personnel for the rescue of emergency service members, if the need arises, operating at emergency incidents.

6. Personnel Staging Area - An area designated as an on scene staging area for personnel.
7. PAR (personnel accountability report) - An on scene accountability report of operational personnel to include personnel, progress reports, location, and air supply.

Basic offensive plan:

1. First in unit shall give size up, establish and name command and announce initial actions.
2. Identify critical fire ground factors and perform risk/benefit analysis
3. Establish RIT and safety officer
4. First line-fast, aggressive interior attack (using tank water)
5. Provide support activities (ventilation, forcible entry, ground ladders etc.)
6. Perform primary search
7. Second line-backup, cover, additional water
8. Positive water supply
9. Quickly evaluate success and react

Basic defensive plan:

1. First in unit shall give size up, establish and name command and announce initial actions.
2. Evaluate fire spread/write off lost property
3. Identify critical fire ground factors and perform risk/benefit analysis
4. Prioritize fire streams outside the collapse zone and protect exposures
5. Provide big, well placed streams
6. Positive water supply
7. Quick determination of additional resources
8. Surround and drown

Response:

The response to a single family dwelling fire shall initially consist of two (2) Engine Companies and one (1) Ladder/Service Company and shall be augmented at the discretion of the incident commander.

Incident Priorities:

1. Incident priorities for single family dwelling fires shall be:
 - a. Life safety
 - b. Incident stabilization
 - c. Property conservation

Operational Procedure:

1. Upon arrival to the incident, the apparatus operator shall, if possible, spot the apparatus just past the structure. This will allow the officer to visualize three (3) sides of the structure and potentially allow the front of the structure for the ladder company.

2. The first arriving officer (or senior personnel) shall initiate the incident command system and relay the appropriate information (ref. SOG 3.00). A secondary size-up will often be warranted due to the remote locations of some residences in our jurisdiction.

3. The incident commander will determine the mode of operation for the incident by conducting a risk/benefit analysis. Within a structured risk management plan we may risk our lives a lot in a calculated manner to protect savable lives, we may risk our lives a little to protect savable property, and we will not risk our lives at all to save what is already lost.

4. The incident commander will need to consider the following when determining the mode of operation:

- a. Offensive, Defensive, Rescue.
- b. The building (type of construction, condition, age open or enclosed structure etc.).
- c. Structural integrity of the building (contents vs. structural involvement).
- d. The fire load (what type of fuel is burning and what's left to burn).
- e. The fire and/or smoke conditions (extent of fire, location, color of smoke, velocity etc.).
- f. The rescue profile (savable occupants/survivability).
- g. Available resources
- h. Time of day, vehicles in the driveway, etc.

5. Fire involvement greater than 50% of the structure shall indicate a probable defensive

6. Mode of operation.

7. The incident commander shall retain the authority to alter the mode of firefighting operation at any time during the incident based on his/her evaluation of the conditions on/or around the scene.

8. The incident commander or his/her designee will conduct a 360 degree incident "walk around" to assist with developing an incident action plan. A thermal imaging camera (TIC) needs to be utilized during the incident walk around.

9. The incident commander shall consider the responding resources and request additional resources as needed.

10. In the event that a size-up indicates a structure greater than 2,000 square feet in size or greater than two (2) stories in height, an additional engine shall be responded, at the discretion of the incident commander, in an emergency response mode to the scene.

11. The incident commander or his/her designee shall make every attempt to secure the structure's utilities prior to engaging in firefighting activities. No fire department personnel shall pull a structure's power meter.

12. The incident commander shall request the power company and gas company early into the incident if needed.

13. As per NFPA 1500, an incident safety officer shall be assigned at all incidents.

14. The default location for the "personnel staging area" will be located at the rear of the first in engine unless otherwise specified by the incident commander. All previously un-assigned personnel will report to the "staging area" and await an assignment.

15. A RIT team shall be assigned as soon as enough personnel are available. The incident commander may assign a responding unit as RIT and they shall fulfill the function upon arrival.

16. Secondary means of egress shall be established on any structure that presents an egress hazard for firefighters operating on the interior.

17. The incident commander shall verbalize all benchmarks over the radio. Incident commanders should pay particular attention to the on-scene timer as relayed by dispatch. This is a reminder to relay benchmarks, and to consider/re-consider tactics. The benchmarks could include:

- a. Knockdown
- b. Primary search/secondary search all clear
- c. Utilities secured
- d. Positive water supply
- e. Ventilation complete
- f. Secondary means of egress established
- g. PAR

16. A personnel accountability report (PAR) shall be conducted at regular intervals, change of operational modes, in the event of an emergency situation, or other benchmarks.

17. The incident commander should re-evaluate the tactics being used every 10 minutes. If progress is not being made a change in tactics should be considered.

18. Tactical assignment for the first due Engine Company may include:

- a. Vent, Enter, Search (VES) with known or probable rescues
- b. Deployment of necessary attack hose lines (minimum size of 1.75")
- c. Primary search and rescue
- d. Ventilation
- e. Evidence preservation

19. Tactical assignment for the second engine crew may be water supply. Unless otherwise directed by the incident commander, the second engine will provide a 5" supply line to the initial attack engine.

20. Tactical assignments for the next arriving units will be assigned by the incident commander and may include:

- a. Assist attack crews
- b. Deploy backup or additional hose lines (minimum size of 1.75")
- c. Secondary search
- d. Throwing ground ladders
- e. RIT
- f. Medical group/incident rehab
- g. Ventilation
- h. Salvage/overhaul
- i. Elevated master streams

Operational Objectives:

Personnel shall use the RECEO-VS method for determining the operational objectives for single family dwelling fires.

1. Rescue of victims or potential victims
2. Protection of exposed property
3. Confinement of the hazard
4. Extinguishment of the fire
5. Incident scene overhaul
6. Ventilation (when appropriate)
7. Property salvage (along with suspicious evidence conversation)

Conclusion:

At an incident of this type, as with all operations of this department, Life safety is our primary concern. This includes firefighters as well as civilians. All personnel involved in firefighting operations shall wear full protective equipment. The incident commander may relax this when conditions have sufficiently improved. An incident safety officer will be assigned at every incident. Upon stabilization of the incident, property preservation shall be our next concern. Every effort shall be made to minimize damage to property by the incident and the operations of this department. An offensive attack, carried out according to established department standards, normally will accomplish the previously noted objectives. It shall be the responsibility of the incident commander, using his/her training and experience, to determine when these objectives can be reached in a safe and efficient manner.