

CLIO ARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

OPERATING GUIDELINE

TITLE: STRUCTURAL FIRE FIGHTING - RESIDENTIAL

REFERENCES: NFPA 1500

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SAFETY STANDARDS PART 74
CAFD RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND GUIDELINES

THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURAL FIRE FIGHTING ARE: LIFE SAVING OPERATIONS AND PREVENTION OF FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

SAFETY OF FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL SHALL BE A PRIMARY CONCERN FOR ALL OPERATIONS.

EFFECTIVE May 16, 2005, IN AGREEMENT WITH ALL FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS, BOTH CAFD STATIONS SHALL BE DISPATCHED FOR INITIAL RESPONSE FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURAL FIRES IN THE FIRE DISTRICT.

APPARATUS

- Initial response shall be: 1 Engine, 1 Tanker, 1 Squad from each station.

PERSONNEL

- Initial response should be: A full compliment, based on seating for each apparatus.
- Minimum response shall be: 1 Officer, 1 Driver, 3 Fire Fighters from each station.
- If the minimum response is not available, a Mutual Aid Alarm shall be called.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- All personnel responding to the incident shall wear a complete set of turnout gear. Turnouts shall consist of; Helmet, Hood, Bunker Coat, Bunker Pants, Boots, and Gloves.
- All personnel who are actively involved, or who may become actively involved in the extinguishing of a residential structure fire must use a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device.
- All personnel who are engaged in structural fire fighting shall utilize the face protection provided by the helmet face shield, or the breathing apparatus face piece with helmet.

TRAINING

- Personnel shall not be actively involved in Interior structural fire fighting until they have completed the Michigan State Fire Fighters Training Council Fire Fighter I Course or Certified Equivalent.
- All personnel on the scene shall have completed, as a minimum, the CAFD "Rookie Training".

INCIDENT COMMAND

- The Incident Command System shall be utilized to the extent warranted by the nature of the incident.

MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY

- All members will use the Department Accountability as directed.

WORKING IN TEAMS OF TWO

- Members using SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) shall operate in teams of two (2) or more who are constantly in communication with each other through visual, audible, direct physical contact, safety guide rope, electronic or other means to coordinate their activities, and are in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of emergency

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

- When members are involved in interior fire attack, or other situations requiring the use of SCBA, there will be a Rapid Intervention Team assigned at the point of entry.
- The Rapid Intervention Team will not be assigned any other duties, and shall remain in place while the Attack Team is inside the structure.
- The Rapid Intervention Team will have on ALL Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment, including SCBA (the mask may be disconnected from the air source until entering the structure, in order to preserve air which may be required during intervention or rescue).
- The Rapid Intervention Team shall have a “charged” hand line, and other tools (such as hand light, halligan, axe, etc.) necessary to carry out the intervention or rescue. These items will remain with the Rapid Intervention Team until they are relieved of their duty.
- If the Attack Team leaves the structure, due to renewing their air supply, and another team enters the structure, the Rapid Intervention Team will remain in place.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION SIGNAL

- An emergency evacuation may be called for any reason of safety i.e. rapidly deteriorating fire conditions, immanent collapse, collapse, etc.
- The emergency evacuation signal will consist of five (5) three (3) second blasts of an air horn over the radio, followed by ten (10) seconds for a radio announcement. Once activated, all fire ground radio will immediately cease.
- When the emergency evacuation alert is sounded, all personnel will immediately evacuate to their safe area and report to the section officer. Crews will remain in the safe area until directed otherwise.
- The Emergency Evacuation Signal will continue until all personnel are accounted for.
- Once all personnel are physically accounted for, the Incident Commander can resume operations.

POINT OF ENTRY

- On “most” residential structures, only one point of entry will be made on the initial attack.

VENTILATION PRIOR TO AND DURING THE FIRE ATTACK

- Upon arriving at the scene, the “first in” teams shall not conduct an interior attack until at least minimal ventilation has been completed. (Exception is for immediate rescue of occupants)
- Primary ventilation will be conducted as required as soon as possible.

ATTACK

- A sufficient water supply is to be established whether by connecting to a hydrant system or by setting up a tanker shuttle/portatank operation.
- 1 1/2” hand lines shall be minimum size for Attack Lines.
- A minimum of two (2) fire fighters shall enter the structure. They shall operate on the “buddy” system (2 in, 2 out).

UNOCCUPIED STRUCTURES

- Prior to any entry into an unoccupied structure, the Incident Commander and/or the Safety Officer and/or the Operations Officer or any combination thereof, must determine if the structure is safe for an offensive interior attack. If it is determined that the structure poses any threat to personnel, a defensive or external attack only shall be made.

OVERHAUL

- All members performing overhaul must wear full PPE (includes bunker coat, bunker pants, gloves, boots, hood, helmet) must be worn.
- All members performing overhaul must use SCBA unless the atmosphere has been checked and deemed safe by an appropriate calibrated detector.
- Members are not to exceed a three (3) air bottle maximum for the entire incident (2 air bottle maximum during extinguishment).
- Members should always work in groups of two (2) or more.
- Always use proper tools for the job.
- Members should be aware of their surroundings and know the conditions inside the structure such as holes in the floor, wall collapse, blocked doorways, etc.
- Ventilation fans should be used to supply fresh air and maintain a visually clear atmosphere.
- Communication should be maintained between the team working inside the structure and the Operations Officer or Incident Commander.
- Members performing overhaul should have a charged hand line with them until exiting the structure.
- The team shall have a minimum of one hand light during the overhaul operations.
- During nighttime hours, a minimum of one (1) tripod light must be set up in each working sector of the structure to maximizing vision for the crew and one (1) tripod light outside the structure as well.
- Members should look for and not disturb any type of evidence to help determine the cause of the fire and are to report their findings to the Operations Officer or Incident Commander.

AFTER EXTINGUISHMENT

- The cause and origin of the fire must be determined, if at all possible.
- The occupant or property owner, or their designee, must be notified, and on the scene so that the property can be turned back over to him/her.

- If Arson is indicated, the State Police Fire Marshall or a local law enforcement officer should be requested on scene due to the possible criminal nature of the incident. In the event that neither area available to respond, a "Consent to Search" form should be completed and included in the report.
- A full and complete report must be filed, including, if needed, still pictures and/or video pictures of the incident.
- All Equipment and Apparatus shall be cleaned and inspected before being returned to service.