



Adam Harrison, Fire Chief

PURPOSE:

Multiple Dwellings are present throughout Escambia County and ECFR may have to mitigate a fire incident involving these structures. Because of their size and number of residents, these occupancies could present a high civilian life hazard and could slow or complicate the initial company operations. It is imperative that clear and effective standard operating procedures are utilized to provide occupants with the greatest likelihood of survival and property conservation.

OBJECTIVE:

To define the roles and responsibilities of each arriving company when responding to a report of a fire in a multiple dwelling. The arrival of the companies will dictate on scene duties at the Incident Commander's discretion.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

I. FIRST ARRIVING COMPANIES RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Size-up using the thermal imaging camera (TIC), make an accurate arrival report, identify hydrant locations, identify the fire department connection (FDC) location, ensure the best strategic position is accessible for the first arriving ladder company, and establish command.
2. Establish a water supply or assign as necessary.
3. Officer shall get a 360-degree view of the building, if possible. Prioritizing life safety / rescue / vent, enter, search (VES). Determine the location of the fire before stretching the attack line. For upper floor fires ensure that there is no fire in a lower unit. Determine where to stretch the attack line.
4. Use the most efficient, advantageous, and safest method to complete the stretch, (up the stairs, rope stretch, standpipe, etc.). Stretch the appropriate hose line (size/length) to the predetermined location.
5. For companies arriving with a fourth firefighter, he/she will normally be the "control firefighter" who assists with the hose stretch. In cases where an engine routinely arrives alone, they may be required to force entry, or VES where warranted, and conditions allow.
6. Upon entry and if warranted, make an inspection hole in the ceiling of the fire area and/or the public hallway on the fire floor.
7. Initiate an interior attack if conditions allow. If the public hallway is dirty, initiate the advance with a charged attack line from the safety of the stairwell.
8. Entry into the fire area shall not occur until the entire assignment is on scene, a water supply is established, and rapid intervention team (RIT) is established.



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II. SECOND ARRIVING COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Establish a connection to the hydrant with 5-inch supply line. If possible, perform a reverse lay. If a forward lay is performed, ensure that the hydra-assist valve is attached. Do not block aerial apparatus placement with the supply line.
2. Be prepared to support the operation of the initial attack line if needed and ensure that it is free of kinks and obstacles.
3. Stretch a backup/second line of equal or greater diameter and 50' greater in length than the initial attack line. This line should back up the first line or moved into an exposed apartment to prevent fire spread.
4. Crew may be utilized to perform a primary search on the fire floor.
5. Complete specific tasks ordered by Command.
6. Take over tasks not performed when first-in crews recover victim(s) and are committed to medical aid.

III. THIRD ARRIVING COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Stretch a hose line to the floor above the fire. Consider using a different route/method when stretching the third line.
2. Crew may be utilized to perform a primary search on the fire floor or the floor above.
3. This crew may be utilized to secure utilities such as electric and gas.
4. This company may be used to vent the fire area.

IV. FOURTH ARRIVING COMPANY OR LADDER COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Position the apparatus to protect the long side of the building. Maximize scrub area. Operate the aerial ladder.
2. Place ground ladders to the fire floor and floors above, if possible.
3. Complete the primary search on the fire floor, the floor above, or the top floor.
4. Secure utilities, electric and gas if needed.
5. Check and report conditions at rear of fire building.
6. Report the fire's location and check for extension.
7. Salvage (fire apartments below the fire) & Overhaul
8. Remove occupants as needed.
9. Render medical aid to victims as needed, until Escambia County Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) can assume care.
10. Provide ventilation as needed.
11. Provide forcible entry if needed.



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12. Provide access to concealed areas to expose hidden fire in walls, ceilings, soffits, voids, etc.

IV. Fifth Arriving Company Responsibilities

1. Recon building and provide a report of the perimeter.
2. Assume proactive RIT (i.e., familiarization with operating interior company locations, building layout; confirmation of secondary egress and identification of other hazards).
3. Confirm utilities have been controlled.
4. Ensure a secondary means of egress has been established.
5. Stage equipment and personnel near the Command Post or at strategic locations around the perimeter of the fire building and remain a resource to Command while acting as the RIT.
6. The company officer will be designated as the R.I.T. officer.
7. Complete secondary search.

V. SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A Company Officer may assume the role of Safety Officer until the designated Safety Officer arrives.
2. Safety should check for hazards directly associated with the structure and any exposures that could present any problems.
3. Check for potential building collapse due to fire conditions.
4. Anticipate potential explosion or fire associated with broken gas and electric lines.
5. Operate as the safety officer on the fire floor.

VII. COMMAND CONSIDERATIONS

1. First arriving chief shall assume command preferably face-to-face, or by relieving the incident commander (I.C.) by radio and assigning him/her to return to work with their assigned company.
2. Determine the need for additional resources for the given situation.
3. Second arriving Chief shall assume the role of operations or could be assigned as a division officer on an upper floor.
4. The incident commander may assign R.I.T. to any company operating on the fire ground prior to the arrival of the fifth company depending on fire ground operations being conducted. When this happens the fifth arriving company shall report to the I.C. for additional assignment.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Standard Operating Guidelines

3000.170

High Life Hazard Dwelling Fires

Implemented: DRAFT

Revised:

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5. As the incident commander notification of the Florida Fire Marshal shall be made early as possible for all suspicious fires and those that results in the injury/death of a civilian or responder.
6. Notification to command staff for fires that result in the injury or death of a civilian or responder.
7. Notification to the Escambia County Public Information Office (PIO) for fires that result in the injury/death of a civilian or responder or calls of any significance.
8. If the situation warrants, the Escambia County Sheriff's Office should be requested for traffic and crowd control.
9. Ensure that EMS is responding for possible victims and to stand by for responders until the conclusion of the incident.
10. Rehab and personnel rotation should be considered.