

15.06 Scope:

This procedure has been developed to provide the Cumru Township Fire Department with a set of guidelines that shall be followed in the event of an incident involving multiple family dwellings.

Multiple family dwellings can be defined as "all buildings or portions thereof, that contain three or more living units or areas such as apartments, motels, hotels, condominiums, townhouses, row houses, boarding houses, homes for the elderly, health care facilities, and other like buildings.

This policy does NOT cover one and two family dwellings (15.05) or high rise buildings (15.09).

15.0601 First engine to arrive (water supply):

On smoke showing, visible fire or confirmed "working fire," the first arriving engine should forward lay a 5-inch (LDH) supply line from the nearest fire hydrant prior to arriving at the fire building, OR position the first arriving engine company at the nearest fire hydrant prior to the fire building and allow the officer and fire crew to investigate the condition of the reported fire building (hydrant person & driver/operator should stay with engine)

15.0602 Catching the hydrant:

The first arriving engine company should stop at the nearest fire hydrant prior to the reported building on fire. The "Lead-Off" firefighter with a portable radio shall remove the LDH, hydrant accessory bag and wrap the hydrant. Once the "Lead-Off" firefighter has secured the hose around the hydrant he/she shall signal the driver of the first arriving engine to proceed to the fire. The "Lead-Off" firefighter shall wait until the Driver signals to charge the LDH. After the line is charged, the "Lead-Off" person will proceed to the fire counting the sections of hose and checking the hose connections.

15.0603 Engine Company positioning:

Positioning of the apparatus is the responsibility of the driver. The driver should position the apparatus for optimum efficiency. When positioning the engine for a multi-family dwelling fire, the driver shall position the engine on side A (front) of the building making sure to allow available space for the truck company.

15.0604 Rescue:

Life Safety is the #1 priority. A primary search shall be conducted immediately, it is imperative that a hand line be stretched to the seat of the fire by the first arriving engine in an attempt to stop the forward progress of the fire. This will facilitate the rescue effort and lessen the danger to the occupants. If the occupants are visible from the exterior of the building, an attempt shall be made to rescue them with the use of ground ladders. Victims should be removed via the interior stairway if at all possible. If staffing permits, the rescue should be carried out while a hand line is advanced to the seat of the fire. Members advancing the hand line to the fire area shall search that area as well as extinguishing or controlling the fire.

Any emergency medical care should be provided to the occupants of the residence as soon as possible, such as CPR. Any working fire requires the presence of EMS on location.

15.0605 Fire Control:

In order to establish a safe and efficient fire ground operation, the Incident Commander shall appoint an Operations Section Chief. At least one hand line shall be advanced to the seat of the fire. The line chosen shall never be less than 1 ¾" in diameter. In most cases the fire attack shall be made from the unburned side of the building. In most cases, the line can be advanced through the front door of the dwelling. From this point, access is usually available to all areas of the dwelling. The number of lines to be used will be the choice of the operation section chief and depend directly on the nature and size of the fire encountered. A rapid intervention team is necessary to potentially rescue the fire attack team.

15.0606 Search and Rescue:

At least two firefighters will always be assigned this task by the Operations Section Chief. Depending on the size of the multi-family dwelling, two firefighters may be able to quickly search and locate victims. Larger complexes will require more personnel for search details.

Ladders should be used (including aerial) to conduct the primary search as soon as possible and to rescue any occupants trapped by the fire. Search priorities shall be as follows:

- A. Fire area;
- B. Floor above fire;
- C. Top floor;
- D. Floors in between

15.0607 Primary Search:

A primary search shall be performed at every fire situation, whether fire is showing or not. The only difference is the number of firefighters assigned this task by the Operations Section Chief. In nothing showing situations, the primary search can be assigned to two firefighters, however, if a fire is located, more firefighters must be assigned to the task. The team performing search and rescue must be equipped with a portable radio to keep in constant communication.

When conditions indicate there is a fire or the first arriving company reports a fire in their size-up, a primary search must be performed to locate and remove endangered occupants, or to verify that civilians have escaped the fire. The fire attack team can perform the primary search of the immediate fire area while the truck or rescue company personnel begin the primary search on the floor immediately above the fire. All searches must be made using a search pattern indicated in Section 15.0510. If time and staffing permits, the search and rescue teams operating above the fire should do so with the protection of a hand line. This will provide protection for the firefighters performing this task. This shall provide protection for the firefighters performing this task. Firefighters performing the primary search must have forcible entry tools with them to force open locked doors or to aid the escape of the firefighter should he/she become trapped in a building or room.

Victims are often overcome attempting to escape the fire. For this reason, firefighters performing the primary search will commonly find the victims next to doors and windows. Firefighters should pay close attention for signs of trapped or injured occupants. Coughing, moaning, or cries for help indicate people may have not escaped the fire. If occupants of victims are located, this should be communicated to the operation sections chief immediately. Victims should be removed via the interior stairway, if at all possible, or the closest exit point. Ladders should be used only if passage down the stairway is not possible.

15.0608 Second Arriving Engine (alternate water supply):

The primary responsibility of the second arriving engine company shall be to ensure that the first arriving engine has a sufficient and uninterrupted water supply. If a Hydrant valve is on the hydrant the second engine shall connect to the valve/hydrant and be prepared to supplement the water supply to the first engine. If there is no humat valve on the hydrant the second engine shall find an alternate water supply for the fire scene and stand-by for further instructions.

Firefighters arriving with this engine shall proceed to the fire scene. If a back-up hose line has not been established this should be the first priority of this team. If a back-up hose line is not needed then this team can assume search & rescue responsibilities before the truck company arrives. If the truck company is in service, this team may assume the role of RIT.

15.0609 Truck Company positioning:

The positioning of the truck shall be the responsibility of the truck company officer, if not assigned by the Incident Commander. The first arriving truck company will normally take up position on side A (front) of the fire building unless otherwise directed.

15.0610 Truck Company operations:

After arriving on location, the truck company officer shall report to the Operations Section Chief for further instructions. It will be the responsibility of the Truck group supervisor to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although earlier arriving engine companies may have already implemented some of the duties, it will be the responsibility of the Truck group supervisor to coordinate the remaining activities to ensure they will be completed. The following are some of the activities or duties that must be addressed: rescue, ladders, forcible entry, salvage, ventilation, and utility control. Many of these duties may be carried out simultaneously with one another.

15.0611 Third Arriving Engine:

The primary responsibility of the third arriving engine is to secure a secondary water supply if the second arriving engine is connected to the humat valve on the first hydrant. If a secondary water supply has already been established, then the third engine shall stand-by one block from the fire building ready to replace the first or second engine in case of failure.

The firefighters arriving with this engine shall proceed to the fire scene. This team shall stand-by in manpower staging area established by the Incident Commander and wait for instructions from the Operations Section Chief.

15.0612 Second Arriving Truck Company:

The second arriving Truck Company shall stage one block from the fire building and wait for further instructions from the Incident Commander. The firefighters from this unit shall report to the manpower staging area established by the Incident Commander and wait for instructions from the Operations Section Chief.

15.0613 Ladders:

The primary functions of the truck company is rescue and ventilation, however, other truck duties must be performed in conjunction with rescue. Many of the duties you will perform will aid in rescue or will greatly facilitate the rescue process.

If occupants are visible at the windows, roofs, or porches, they should be rescued immediately by the use of ground ladders. If people are not visible, ground ladders must be used anyway. Ladders positioned for rescue and/or egress should be placed at every window above the first floor.

15.0614 Rescue Company operations:

After arriving on location, the rescue company officer shall report to the Operations Section Chief for further instructions, it will then be the responsibility of the Rescue group supervisor to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although earlier arriving engine companies and/or truck companies may have implemented some of these duties, it will be the responsibility of the

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15.0615 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT):

When interior fire attack occurs within a structure, the Incident Commander shall assign a RIT team to the Operation Section Chief. The RIT team shall secure the necessary equipment needed to perform an effective and efficient removal of personnel should they experience trouble. It will be the responsibility of the RIT team leader to stay apprised with the probable location of all personnel who are operating within the structure. It will be critical to coordinate rapid intervention team activities with the Operation Section Chief along with the scene Safety Officer and the Accountability Officer.

15.0616 Ventilation:

Ventilation should be one of the early priorities! Ventilation must be performed. Ventilation facilitates rescue, fire control and property conservation. Ventilation shall not occur until attack lines have been charged. If the location of the fire cannot be determined, the safety of the interior teams or victims may be compromised. The Operation Section Chief will determine the need for vertical or horizontal ventilation. This task will normally be conducted by the truck company but could be conducted by the second arriving engine team if necessary.

Fire that extends to attics must be controlled quickly. Ventilation of the roof is essential. Venting of the roof should be performed directly over, or as close as SAFELY possible to the fire. In fires that are extremely smoky, roof ventilation should be performed over stairwells or hallways to clear these areas of smoke and toxic gases.

When roof ventilation is performed, it shall be performed with a minimum number of two firefighters in full protective equipment, including SCBA. The following equipment shall be considered standard equipment to be taken to the roof at all times:

- A. Sledge Hammer
- B. Pike Poles (10' and/or 12')
- C. Power saws

D. Rope

E. Flashlights

F. Roof Ladders(s)

G. Radio

H. Charged hose line for fire fighter protection only.

Prior to roof ventilation activities, at least two ladders must be raised to the roof. Depending on access, the truck can be positioned to the roof and a ground ladder placed as a secondary means of egress. One large opening should be made rather than two smaller ones. Care shall be taken not to cut or damage the supporting roof support systems. If the roof shows conditions of collapse, (sagging, separation of roof and walls, large cracks or openings around ducts, chimneys, etc.), vent from the aerial device. Operation Section Chief must be notified at once. Once the opening(s) have been made, be sure to remove any ceilings to ensure ventilation is accomplished in the attic or upper most floors. Once ventilation is complete, retreat from the roof and report to Operation Section Chief that ventilation is complete.

15.0617 Secondary Search:

A secondary search must be started on the fire building as soon as or shortly after the primary search is completed. All areas should be checked thoroughly for anyone who may have survived the fire or for any victims who may have been missed during the primary search. The Truck group supervisor shall inform the Operation Section Chief that the secondary search has been completed.

15.0618 Utility Control:

The appropriate utility companies shall be notified. Truck company firefighter can secure the gas and electrical utilities.

15.0619 Property Conservation:

Property conservation measures should begin as soon as possible to reduce the property loss by fire, water, heat, and smoke. Property conservation efforts are to be performed by personnel when staffing levels and conditions permit salvage operations to begin. Salvage covers should be used to protect valuables and to prevent further damage by water and smoke.

15.0620 Forcible Entry:

All truck/rescue company firefighters should be prepared to perform forcible entry. All firefighters must have forcible entry equipment such as axes, sledge hammer, pry bars, and halligan tools. Entry must be made in the quickest and most cost effective manner.

15.0621 Overhaul:

When the fire has been confined and/or declared under control, overhaul efforts should begin. At least one hose line shall remain in service during overhaul. Overhaul will be continued at the discretion of the Operation Section Chief. Truck company personnel will assist engine company personnel with the task of overhaul. Truck company personnel must pull walls and ceilings that have been exposed to fire to search for hidden fire prevent a rekindle.

15.0622 Safety:

The safety of fire department personnel is of the utmost concern. No member shall be permitted to take part in fire suppression activities unless that person is wearing full protective clothing including Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). SCBA(s) shall be worn at all times on the interior of the building

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during fire suppression activities--including during overhaul. SCBA(s) shall be worn until it can be determined that the level of carbon monoxide in the structure is at a safe level. At that time the Operation Section Chief can grant permission to the operating teams to remove their SCBA(s).

All injuries to fire fighters requiring medical attention shall be reported immediately to Incident Commander.

15.0623 Team Units:

Teams are to stay together. If their Officer is assigned another detail, a team leader will be designated before the Officer is reassigned.

15.0624 Additional Alarms:

The event of a working fire in a multi-family dwelling, a minimum of an additional truck company and an additional engine company shall be requested and staged until needed.