

TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES

Part 4: I.C.S. - Operations Function

Subject: Roof

Page 1 of 3

Effective Date: 1 of 3

Section: 2-4-4

Reviewed/Revised Date: 04-26-10

- 4.01 Purpose. To provide a guideline for Roof division activity.
- 4.02 Goal. To permit safe and effective roof operations at structure fires.
- 4.03 Description of Function. Roof operations are designed to support interior firefighting. Personnel operate on the roof to ventilate, to check fire conditions and structural safety, and to determine the shape and arrangement of structures. The loss of roof integrity is a primary reason to change from offensive to defensive operations.
- 4.04 Guideline.
- A) A Roof division should be set up by the first team to reach the roof. The first personnel reaching the roof must quickly check conditions to assure the roof is structurally sound before trying to work on it. The degree and extent of any signs of weakness must be considered before committing personnel above a fire.
- B) The initial Roof Division Officer shall make a report to Command, as quickly as possible, describing:
- Roof construction (flat, peaked, bowstring, etc.)
 - Structural conditions
 - Visible smoke and fire conditions and extent
 - Presence of a ceiling
 - Locations of firewalls and significant arrangement details
 - Locations of any heavy objects or equipment which could pose a danger of collapse
 - Proposed actions
- This information should be updated as conditions develop or as more information is collected.
- C) When conditions show an obvious need for vertical ventilation, Roof Division shall coordinate the opening of vent holes with Command and Interior Divisions/Groups.

Subject: Roof
Date: 07-01-95
Page 2 of 3

- D) The Roof Division should try to open vent holes over the fire area.
- E) The Roof Division will report to Command when ventilation has been accomplished.
- F) Without an obvious need for vertical ventilation, Roof Division shall coordinate opening inspection holes with Command to determine the need for vent holes.
- G) After ventilation is complete, exit roof as soon as possible.

4.05 Safety.

- A) The Roof Division Officer is responsible for providing an alternate means of egress from the roof. Anticipate the loss of the safe path to the initial access ladder and the alternate should be at a remote point.
- B) The Roof Division Officer must monitor the radio. Radio contact must be maintained over the noise of power tools and equipment.
- C) The Roof Division Officer has the responsibility to provide for protective hose lines where needed. Protective hose lines are for the protection of personnel and to stop fire spread on a roof surface only. Hose lines MUST NOT be directed into vent holes.
- D) Roof ladders shall be used for operations on any roof top where slope presents a safety concern. Further, these ladders shall be used anytime there is a possible weakness in the roof covering. A roof ladder should be used to bridge over suspected weak areas.
- E) All Roof Division personnel must wear full protective clothing and must use SCBA when operating over a fire area. Face pieces must always be in place when opening vent holes.
- F) Aerial ladders should be used for roof access whenever possible to provide stability and strength in case of structural collapse.
- G) If, at any time structural conditions become questionable, Command must check the safety of both Roof Division and Interior Division/Group. Personnel must not work on a roof which is structurally questionable.

Subject: Roof
Date: 07-01-95
Page 3 of 3

H) Roof Division personnel shall work within the following safety guidelines.

- 1) Ladder near corners. Avoid involved fire areas and electrical lines.
- 2) Test or "sound" the roof before walking on it.
- 3) Set up a safe path from ladders to operating areas by probing and sounding.
- 4) Personnel shall not wander on roofs away from safe paths.
- 5) Additional crews shall not walk onto roof without signal from Roof Division Officer.

4.06 Completion of Assignment. When the necessary roof operations are completed, personnel should report readiness for reassignment.