

TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES

Part 8: Strategic Guidelines

Subject: Residential (1 & 2 Family)

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Section: 2-8-1

Effective Date: 07-01-95

Revised Date:

- 1.01 Purpose. To identify items concerning residential fires which impact on fire response strategy.
- 1.02 Goal. Develop response strategies which recognize hazards and conditions associated with 1 & 2 family, residential fires.
- 1.03 Residential Fires - General.
 - A) Residential fires account for about 70% of all fires, and about 80% of all fire deaths reported in the United States.
 - B) For this guideline, residential occupancies (1 & 2 family) are divided into three major types.
 - 1) One-story house.
 - 2) Two-story house.
 - 3) Attached garage.
- 1.04 Special Problems.
 - A) Life Hazard.
 - 1) Nighttime hours are most severe - greater chance occupants are at home, asleep and in need of rescue.
 - 2) Regardless of time of day, conduct primary and secondary searches.
 - 3) Life hazard in attached garage is minimal unless.
 - a) Someone was in garage at the time of the fire.
 - b) The garage lies under a portion of the house.
 - c) An explosion or flash fire has occurred.
 - B) Construction.
 - 1) Lightweight wood frame most common.
 - 2) Truss supported roof - collapse potential.
 - 3) Corridors and open doorways will permit rapid fire spread.
 - 4) Fire rated assemblies (walls, etc.) may slow fire spread.

C) Contents.

- 1) Fire load will range from light to heavy.
- 2) Can include hazardous materials.
 - a) gasoline.
 - b) paints.
 - c) pesticides/herbicides.
 - d) gunpowder, etc.

D) Occupancy.

- 1) Average occupant load is 4 (1980 census).
- 2) Can include home-based business.
 - a) authorized and unauthorized (by zoning ordinance).
 - b) office most common, but can include storage of stock.
- 3) Has been used to hide illegal activity.
 - a) clandestine drug laboratory.
 - b) potential risk to firefighters.

E) Hazards to Firefighters.

- 1) Improper building changes - collapse potential.
- 2) Contents - flammable, reactive or toxic hazard.

1.05 Strategic Considerations.

A) Pre-Planning.

- 1) Maintain map books and address lists.
- 2) Maintain computer-aided dispatch files.
 - a) handicapped persons.
 - b) home-based day care.
 - c) community based residential facilities.

B) Inter-Agency.

- 1) EMS responsible for triage, treatment and transportation of injured persons.
- 2) Sheriff's Department is responsible for traffic and crowd control.
- 3) Red Cross responsible for shelter and care of displaced persons (damaged homes, evacuated areas).

C) Command Function.

- 1) Activate only those functions and staff positions needed to manage the incident.
- 2) Management structure for 1 & 2 family residential fire may resemble the following.



- 3) Safety - particular need with attached garage involvement.
 - a) Use of SCBA.
 - b) Decontamination of personnel.
 - c) Check water runoff.

D) Operations Function.

- 1) One-Story House.
 - a) Rescue is primary goal (primary & secondary search).
 - b) Ventilation - vertical if possible.
 - c) Fire Attack - from unburned side.
 - 1) Aggressive interior attack at seat of fire.
 - 2) Coordinate attack with ventilation.
 - d) Salvage - begin as soon as resources are available.

2) Two-Story House.

- a) Rescue - second floor is serious problem because of upward travel of heat and smoke.
- b) Ventilation.
 - 1) Start at top and work down.
 - 2) Pressurize building.
- c) Fire Attack.
 - 1) Protect stairway.
 - 2) Attack from unburned side.
 - 3) Stop vertical fire spread.
 - 4) Coordinate with ventilation.
- d) Salvage - similar to one-story, but if fire is on second floor:
 - 1) Assign personnel to salvage 1st floor.
 - 2) Arrange and cover furniture in center of room.
 - 3) Direct water out of structure (chutes, etc.).

3) Attached Garage.

- a) Rescue.
 - 1) Minimal unless someone is in garage at time of fire.
 - 2) Must complete primary and secondary searches - entire building.
- b) Ventilation - open area lends itself to forced ventilation.
- c) Fire Attack - two strategies are available.
 - 1) Quick attack on main body of fire.
 - 2) Attack from unburned side (home interior).
 - 3) Whichever attack is used, it is critical to check for extension.
 - 4) Support garage door - expect spring failure from exposure to heat.
- d) Salvage - expect minimal salvage in garage, but prompt salvage in house needed.

E) Logistics Function.

- 1) Establish REHAB area early.
 - a) Breathing air supply.
 - b) Medical monitoring of personnel.

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F) Planning Function.

- 1) Use Tactical Worksheet to maintain situation and resource status.
- 2) Consider documenting fire scene using photographs.

G) Finance Function. It is unlikely that function will be needed.