

<b>TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES</b>	
Part 8: Strategic Guidelines Subject: Center Hall Occupancies Page 1 of 4 Effective Date: 07-01-95	Section: 2-8-3 Reviewed/Revised Date: 04-26-10

- 3.01 Purpose. To identify items concerning center hallway occupancy fires which impact on fire response strategy.
  
- 3.02 Goal. Develop response strategies which recognize hazards and conditions associated with center hallway occupancies.
  
- 3.03 Center Hallway Occupancies - General.
  - A) Buildings that are multiple-story that use a center hallway to access individual rooms, suites or apartments.
  
  - B) Examples of occupancies which fall within this category include.
    - 1) Multi-family dwellings.
    - 2) Professional offices.
  
- 3.04 Special Problems.
  - A) A small one-room fire in a center hallway building can cause serious problems for the occupants as soon as the smoke enters the common hallway.
  
  - B) The smoke in the hallway affects the people attempting to evacuate the building, creating potential for panic.
  
  - C) The occupants are forced to evacuate through a common hallway filled with smoke.
  
  - D) If the fire is unchecked, it will grow in size until it spreads into the hallway. Eventually, the hallway becomes the path of fire travel to adjoining apartments/suites.
  
  - E) If the fire doors are open in the hallways, hot air and gases will rise up the stair shafts until they reach the top floor.
  
  - F) With flames in the center hallway, firefighters will essentially be attacking a fire in a tunnel.

3.05 Strategic Considerations.

A) Pre-Planning.

- 1) Identify occupancies having common attics/basements.
  - a) Owner/property record.
  - b) Computer-aided dispatch file.
- 2) Identify occupancies with special hazards/problems.
  - a) Truss supported roof and truss supported ceiling and floor joists in multi story-buildings.
  - b) Storage practices of tenants.

B) Inter-Agency.

- 1) EMS responsible for triage, treatment and transportation of injured persons.
- 2) Law Enforcement is responsible for crowd control, traffic control, and security of salvaged contents and currency.
- 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 fire within this type of occupancy may resemble the following.

	Command		
Staging	Operations	Safety	EMS
Firefighting Equipment	Ventilation Group	Interior Division	

- 3) Safety.
  - a) Roof, truss ceiling and floor joists collapse potential.
  - b) Use of SCBA.
  - c) Personnel contamination - building contents.

D) Operations Function.

- 1) Rescue/Evacuation. Consider rescue problem to be severe. Do not hesitate to call additional resources early.
  - a) Primary search on the fire floor and above.
  - b) Secondary search on the fire floor and below.
  - c) Evacuate.
  - d) Keep hallways open and safe.
- 2) Ventilation. Keep halls open and safe for evacuation if at all possible. Relieve smoke and heat by venting at the top of the building in coordination with fire attack.
  - a) Consider roof ventilation.
  - b) Check light wells over stair shafts.
  - c) If conditions dictate, make center hallway cut.
  - d) Pressurize building as soon as conditions permit.
  - e) If fire is on top floor, vent the roof or trench cut.
- 3) Fire Attack Push the fire from the unburned side back to the involved side.
  - a) Multiple hand lines will be needed.
  - b) Side by side attack: one holds the hallway, while the other extinguishes the rooms.
  - c) Bring hand lines into position.
    - 1) Up stair shafts.
    - 2) Through apartments/suites from unburned side.
  - d) If fire is on the top floor.
    - 1) Check for attic fire.
    - 2) Pull ceilings.
    - 3) Coordinate attack and ventilation teams.
- 4) Salvage.
  - a) Water chutes.
  - b) Salvage covers.
  - c) Floor runners.
  - d) Plastic.
  - e) Pressurize building.

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E) Logistics Function.

- 1) Establish REHAB area early.
  - a) Breathing air supply.
  - b) Medical monitoring of personnel.
- 2) Supplies for salvage activity.
  - a) Covers, plastic, etc.
  - b) Plywood for securing windows, etc.

F) Planning Function.

- 1) Use tactical worksheet to maintain situation and resource status.  
Expand to tactical board as needed.

G) Finance Function. Full activation is unlikely.