

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>
<p>Part 9: Tactical Checklist Subject: Chimney Fires Page 1 of 3 Effective Date: 07-02-95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Section: 2-9-2 Reviewed/Revised Date: 06-28-10</p>

Part 9: Tactical Checklist

Subject: Chimney Fires

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Section: 2-9-2

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- 2.01 Goal. To provide a guideline for response to chimney fires.
- 2.02 Chimney Fires. Any fire which is confined to the chimney, vents, heating appliances, or connections to the chimney.
- A) A chimney fire shall be considered a structure fire with appropriate response.
- 2.03 Equipment for Chimney Fires.
- A) Chimney Fire Kit.
- 1) Metal bucket.
 - 2) Chimney chain.
 - 3) Mirror.
 - 4) Insulated gloves.
 - 5) Safety goggles.
- B) Bulk Dry Chemical.
- 1) Apply to source fire in stove or fireplace.
 - 2) Placed in plastic bags and dropped down chimney.
- C) Salvage Covers and Floor Runners.
- D) Blowers and Fans.
- 2.04 Size-Up.
- A) Smoke.
- 1) Color - black indicates possible burning of creosote within chimney.
 - 2) Amount - is smoke exiting chimney in amounts greater than expected from fire in stove or fireplace?
 - 3) Location - is smoke exiting only from the chimney, or is building filling with smoke?
- B) Are sparks and flames showing at top of chimney?
- C) Examine building interior for entire length of the chimney.
- 1) Do wall surfaces feel hot? Is the paint discolored?
 - 2) Are there any visible cracks or separations found on the chimney?

2.05 Occupant Safety.

- A) If occupants have exited building before arrival, restrict reentry until interior survey determines it is safe to reenter.
- B) If occupants have remained in the building.
 - 1) Request that they leave the building until fire is controlled.
 - 2) Protect in place - monitor their location - be prepared to remove them from building if necessary.
- C) Check condition of occupants:
 - 1) Effects of smoke or carbon monoxide exposure.
 - 2) Burns from attempts to control fire.
 - 3) Effects of excitement.
 - 4) Provide emergency care and request EMS response as needed.

2.06 Suppression.

- A) Spread salvage covers and floor runners before starting fire control (fire is confined to chimney, vents or connectors).
- B) Extinguish fire in stove or fireplace.
 - 1) Open damper.
 - 2) Apply bulk dry chemical on burning fuel.
 - 3) Close oxygen supply.
 - 4) Provide standby with pump can or portable extinguisher while crews control fire in chimney.
- C) Control fire in chimney.
 - 1) If fire is small and contained - let it burn itself out.
 - 2) If fire spread danger exists.
 - a) Drop bulk dry chemical in plastic bags into chimney.
 - b) Apply small amount of water to hot fuel in stove or fireplace to produce steam. (With the damper open, the steam should rise up the chimney cooling the fire.)
 - c) Use chimney chain to dislodge burning waste in chimney

2.07 Incident Clean-Up and Occupant Information.

- A) Remove burned fuel from stove or fireplace.
 - 1) Use metal containers.

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- 2) Dispose burned fuel outside of structure in a safe location.
- B) Recheck roof and structural areas next to chimney, vents or connectors.
- C) Vent building of residual smoke using blowers.
- D) Inform occupants of need for inspection, cleaning and repair of chimney **before** further use. ¹⁶

2.08 Safety.

- A) Laddering.
 - 1) Use roof ladders.
 - 2) Special call a mutual aid Ladder Company if chimney position or height is beyond Engine Company ladders.
- B) Use eye protection.
- C) Test atmosphere, building can contain products of combustion (carbon monoxide). If indicated, use SCBA.

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Fire department use of a "chimney chain" is a fire control action. This action **is not** chimney cleaning. Chimney cleaning is best completed by a professional chimney sweep who will clean and inspect the chimney. Direct the resident's attention to the telephone directory where a listing of available chimney sweeps can be found.