



RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES

**Effective Date:
06/08/2011**

Revised Date:10/01/2015

Page 1 of 6

I. Purpose:

This policy establishes standard operations to be used at all structure fires unless specifically addressed within another policy.

II. Definitions

Incident Commander- Person in charge of incident

R.I.T.- Rapid Intervention Team

2 in 2 out – The requirement as established by OSHA 1910.134 that requires at least two employees enter an IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times and at least two employees are located outside the IDLH atmosphere to intervene if rescue efforts are required.

Air Monitoring – The use of Carbon Monoxide detectors and Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) detectors or similar devices to ensure atmospheric conditions are within safe limits for entry or if the appropriate respirators or breathing apparatus is required

Offensive attack- Consisting of interior firefighting

Defensive attack- Only exterior firefighting employed

Investigation - The act or process of performing a careful search or examination in order to discover facts, or indications of facts at a part of cause and determination of an event

Transitional attack - Exterior firefighting to remedy the conditions and reset the fire before making an interior attack

Exposures - Anything in an immediate danger of heat and flames due to fire

NIMS- National Incident Management System

F.I.T. - Fire Investigation Team

SLICERS- **S**ize up, **L**ocate the fire, **I**dentify and control the flowpath, **C**ool from a safe location, **E**xtinguish the fire, **R**escue, **S**alvage

III. Policy:

**RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES****Effective Date:
06/08/2011****Revised Date:10/01/2015****Page 2 of 6**

It shall be the policy of the City of Fayetteville Fire/Emergency Management Department to provide employees with adequate equipment and training to enable them to safely perform on the scene of a structure fire. The employee shall also be able to recognize hazards that could result in firefighter injury or fatality.

IV. Procedure:

Section 1. Incident Response to structure fires shall be classified as either moderate or high fire hazards.

A. Moderate Fire Hazards shall receive a minimum response of:

1. 3 Engines
2. 1 Truck
3. 1 Squad/Rescue
4. 1 Battalion Chief

B. High Fire Hazards shall receive a minimum response of:

1. 4 Engines
2. 2 Trucks
3. 2 Squad/Rescue Units
4. 2 Battalion Chiefs

Section 2. Priorities

Priorities shall be Rescue, Exposures, and Fire Control/Containment.

Section 3. Initial Dispatch and Size-Up

A. All communication from initial dispatch through termination of the incident shall be in accordance to FFD Policy 119 – Communications.

B. Upon arrival of the first unit a "size-up" will be given. This will include but not limited to:

1. Occupancies Type (single/multi family, strip mall, etc.)
2. Number of stories
3. Residential or Commercial
4. Conditions showing from exterior (fire, smoke, nothing, etc.)
5. State the mode of operation (investigation, offensive, defensive, transitional)

C. The unit will then establish command using a geographical location.

An example of communicating a "size-up" and assuming incident command would be:

"City Engine 1 is on the scene of a single story, single family, residential structure with smoke showing from the exterior. We are initiating offensive mode. Engine 1 is establishing Person St. command." If the incident dictates, "City mark this as a working fire".

Section 4. Pre-Planning

**RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES****Effective Date:
06/08/2011****Revised Date:10/01/2015****Page 3 of 6**

- A. Pre-Incident Planning will identify major problems, and prescribe what is needed to address the problems, without going too deeply into step by step actions. Pre-plans may also include apparatus placement for first alarm companies. Pre-plans shall include important information in outline form, and appropriate drawings. Also, see policy # 507 Pre Fire Planning.

Section 5. Water supply

- A. A water supply source will be secured at every working fire. The Incident Commander will assign water supply to the unit of his/her choice on the tactical channel. The unit that is tasked with water supply will locate the closest hydrant and lay a 5" supply line to the attack pumper. The water supply unit will be responsible for leaving manpower at the hydrant with proper tools, and adapters to include a radio on the tactical channel.
1. In situations where as a "pumper-tanker" water supply is requested by the Incident Commander, a 3" supply line may be used.
 2. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to assign units to the Fire Department Connection, and/or the Sprinkler Connection. See policies 603 and 604 for more information.

Section 6. Safety

- A. Full protective clothing including SCBA, shall be worn at the scene of all structure fires until the Incident Commander directs otherwise. However, members raising ladders, operating lines outside a building, or other external activities, are not required to use respiratory protective equipment as long as they are in a hazard free atmosphere.
- B. Members responding to working fires will be wearing full protective equipment, including SCBA (with the exception of the mask) when reporting to the "Personnel Staging" area. This includes drivers of 3rd due engine companies or later.
- C. All units work under the direction of "Command", free-lancing is not acceptable. A R.I.T. team will be assigned by the Incident Commander at all structure fires.
- D. Two-in-Two out will be established by the Incident Commander and will be in place prior to interior firefighting operations, unless a confirmed or probable life hazard in the structure is been indicated.
- E. A secondary means of egress (ladder to window) will be put in place by R.I.T. on any structure more than 1 story in height.
- F. Air Monitoring shall be completed and the atmosphere cleared before removal of SCBA can be authorized.

Section 7. Search and Rescue

- A. A primary search will be conducted at all structure fires, where it is possible to enter. Primary search means that crews have quickly gone through the entire structure and verified the

**RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES****Effective Date:
06/08/2011****Revised Date:10/01/2015****Page 4 of 6**

removal and/or safety of all occupants. Time is the critical factor in the primary search process.

1. Secondary search will be part of fire control activities and means that companies thoroughly search the interior of the fire area after initial fire control and ventilation activities have been completed. Thoroughness rather than time is the critical factor in a secondary search. Secondary searches will be conducted by a different crew other than the crew that conducted the Primary search.
2. Danger to occupants is most acute on the fire floor, the floor immediately above the fire, the top floor, and then intermediate floors, in this order. In High-Rise Fires, smoke may not rise to the top of the structure.
3. If a rescue is necessary, or a victim is found the Incident Commander is responsible for requesting EMS.

Section 8. Engine Company Operations

A. An Engine Company should be trained and prepared to perform any function that is expected to be conducted on the fire ground. This includes but is not limited to fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, salvage and overhaul. The "first-due" company should deploy hose lines and begin suppression.

1. An aggressive interior attack will be initiated whenever possible. The first attack line will be a minimum of 1 ¾", however 2 ½ attack lines should be considered if conditions require more water. A secondary or backup line with a minimum of 1 ¾ diameter will be utilized, 50ft longer than the attack line. The first line must go between the victim and the fire to protect avenues of escape. An attack from the interior, unburned side usually places attack crews in a position to accomplish this objective. Do not operate exterior fire streams into a structure where an offensive attack is in progress. Do not operate fire streams down vertical ventilation holes during offensive operations. Early recognition of and response to, concealed-space fires can save the structure. Failure to properly search for fire may cause loss of the structure.
2. SLICERS is an additional tactic that should be considered by Command upon arrival of an incident to assist with attacking modern fire behavior, but does not replace traditional means of firefighting.

Section 9. Truck Company Operations

A. A Truck Company will be trained and prepared to perform any function on a fire ground. This includes, but not limited to fire attack, ventilation, forcible entry, search, rescue, salvage and overhaul.

- B. The Truck Company will be positioned in a location where the aerial can be placed into service on any structure more than 1 story. The first arriving Truck Company should be prepared to:
1. Remove obviously endangered persons.

**RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES****Effective Date:
06/08/2011****Revised Date:10/01/2015****Page 5 of 6**

2. Force Entry.
 3. Search fire floors for endangered persons.
 4. Ventilate as directed by the Incident Commander.
 5. Raise ladders as needed.
- C. All Truck Company members will report to personnel staging area upon arrival, if not given an assignment. The determination should be made by Command, upon arrival, if initial Truck Company Operations will be needed.

Section 10. Squad/Rescue Companies

- A. A Squad/Rescue Company will be trained and prepared to perform any function on a fire ground. This includes, but is not limited to fire attack, ventilation, forcible entry, search, rescue, salvage and overhaul. Arriving Squad/Rescue crews will report to manpower unless given another task by Incident Command.

Section 11. Apparatus Placement

- A. Apparatus function should regulate placement. Effective placement must begin with the arrival of the first units, based on initial size up, pre-fire plans and general conditions upon arrival. In large, complex, and lengthy fire ground operations additional alarm units should be staged. Beware of putting apparatus in places where it cannot be repositioned easily and quickly. Beware of overhead power lines that may fall on apparatus.
- B. When aerial apparatus is not needed for upper level access or rescue, place the apparatus in a position that would provide an effective position for ladder pipe operation if the fire goes to a defensive mode.
- C. Rescue units and none pumping engines should be placed in a safe position that will provide the most effective use of the apparatus (light towers, air systems, etc.) while not blocking movement of other apparatus or interfering with firefighting operations.
- D. Engine companies should not block Truck Company access, or place in a position that hinders removal of ground ladders.

Section 12. Fire investigation

- A. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to determine the origin and cause of the fire. If the Incident Commander is unsure or deems fire to be suspicious, he/she shall request the on shift F.I.T. representative.
- B. The Health Department shall be notified by the Incident Commander when fires occur in:
1. Dairies
 2. Food Processing Plants
 3. Day Care Centers
 4. Groceries, Meat Markets and other Food Establishments
 5. Food Warehouses

Policy# 607

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE FIRE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



RESPONSE TO STRUCTURE FIRES

**Effective Date:
06/08/2011**

Revised Date:10/01/2015

Page 6 of 6

- 6. Restaurants
- 7. Bars
- 8. Homes for Adjustment (Halfway Houses)
- 9. Nursing Homes
- 10. Schools

C. A designee of the Incident Commander shall begin a 921 Investigation Packet which is carried on every apparatus. This form is to be completed in full by either the Incident Commander or the F.I.T. representative within 48 hours of the incident whenever possible.

Section 13. Utilities

- A. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to ensure that all necessary utilities to include power, water, gas, etc. are secured prior to terminating command of the incident.

Approved By: **Benjamin Major**

Digitally signed by Benjamin Major
DN: cn=Benjamin Major, o=Fayetteville
Fire/Emergency Management
Department, ou=Fire Chief,
email=bmajor@ci.fay.nc.us, c=US
Date: 2016.05.31 11:37:38 -04'00'

Fire Chief Benjamin Major

Date