


Title:	Initial Response to Structure Fires			
Section:	400 Fire Operations			
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Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide direction to the initial response to structure fires.

B. SCOPE

This guideline applies to all Fox River Fire District personnel when responding to structure fires, unless specifically addressed in another guideline.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- 1) Offensive Mode: An overall plan to make an aggressive interior or exterior fire attack on or into the structure.
- 2) Defensive Mode: An overall plan to protect exposures and to gain control of a fire by applying hose streams and/or master streams from safe positions.
- 3) Transitional Mode: An overall plan to make an aggressive offensive fire attack from a defensive position. Followed by an interior fire attack.
- 4) Investigative Mode: The first-in engine may operate in the “Investigative” mode when no smoke or flame is reported by dispatch, or visible by on scene police or fire personnel.
 - a) In the investigative mode the engine may move to the address and conduct an investigation.
 - b) If the first-in engine bypasses the hydrant this information must be passed on to the second-in engine.
 - c) The second-in engine would then go to Level 1 staging at the nearest hydrant.
 - d) If only one engine is responding the first-in engine should consider staging at the hydrant.
- 5) Engine Company: The primary purpose of an Engine Company is to affect rescues, provide water supply, confine and extinguish fires. The Engine Company may be assigned other duties, such as; search, RIT, forcible entry, ventilation, overhaul, salvage, ground ladder placement, and exposure protection.

6) Ladder Company: The ladder company provides the support functions necessary to allow engine companies to access and extinguish fire. A simple way to remember the basic functions of a ladder company is with the acronym “L.O.V.E.R.S.U.”

Ladders – Ground and aerial
Overhaul – With the engine company support
Ventilation –horizontal, vertical, PPA
Forcible Entry – Hand tools, power tools
Rescue – Search, VEIS
Salvage – Passive, active
Utilities – Gas, electric

7) Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH): An atmosphere or condition that poses an immediate hazard to life or produces immediate debilitating effects on health.

D. GUIDELINE

1) General safety issues:

- a) Full protective clothing, including SCBA, shall be worn at the scene of all structure fires until the Incident Commander directs otherwise. Air monitoring should be conducted prior to the removal of SCBA.
- b) Members responding to working fires, or multiple alarm fires, will be wearing full protective equipment, including SCBA, when reporting for assignment or staging.
- c) All fire companies will work under the direction of Command, there shall be no freelancing.
- d) Members working inside the IDLH environment shall always work in pairs (minimally) with IRIT (maintain 2 in 2out) in place. Exceptions to this rule are:
 - i) When there is an immediate life hazard, or
 - ii) When the fire is in the incipient stage.
- e) When dispatched to a fire alarm or a reported structure fire, the responding agencies will acknowledge receipt of the alarm on Brown County Fire Main radio channel prior to moving to the assigned tactical radio channel.
- f) Enroute the officer, based on dispatch information, will assure that the appropriate alarm level has been dispatched.

2) Incident Response.

- a) The first arriving unit will provide the following information:
 - i) Announce arrival and confirm location.
 - ii) Provide first in report
 - (a) Building size, height, construction, occupancy, and exposures.
 - (b) Incident description, extent
 - (c) Address life safety concerns
 - (d) Declare an initial strategy, tactics
 - iii) Assign and position responding resources
 - (a) Level 1 staging?
 - iv) Assume and announce Command
 - v) Upgrade to appropriate alarm level, as needed.
- b) Establish or direct the establishment of a sustainable water supply.
- c) Conduct 360-degree assessment of the incident. If unable to do so due to the size of the building, assign an incoming chief officer or another unit to complete the assessment.
- d) Identify the following:
 - i) Utility location/control
 - ii) FDC location
 - iii) Potential hazards
 - iv) Location of the fire
 - v) Basement assessment
 - (a) Fire involvement
 - (b) Type of basement; conventional, lookout, walkout, windowless.
 - vi) Verify life safety concerns
- e) Communicate findings.
 - i) Indicate changes to initial strategies or tactics
 - ii) Direct or redirect incoming units

3) Incident Management

- a) First arriving chief officer.
 - i) Perform secondary incident size-up
 - ii) Receive a briefing from the Initial Incident Commander
 - iii) Assume and announce Command
 - iv) Establish a Command Area
 - v) Evaluate strategies and tactics, make adjustments as needed
 - vi) Assign an Incident Safety Officer
 - vii) Assign a Resource Unit Leader (Accountability).
 - viii) Establish IRIT/RIT
 - ix) Evaluate resources, progress and needs
- b) Extended Incidents
 - i) Upgrade response to appropriate level.
 - ii) Establish staging area and staging officer
 - iii) Assign a Senior Advisor
 - iv) Evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and tactics

- v) Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- vi) Assign Divisions/Groups with supervisory officers
 - (a) Maintain Span of Control
- vii) Establish a rehab area
- viii) Develop a crew rotation/replacement plan
- ix) Develop a demobilization plan
- x) Consider the need for Fire Investigation Team.
- xi) Consider the need for American Red Cross

4) First Arriving Engine Officer

- a) Communicate assignment(s) to crew.
- b) Establish or direct the establishment of a sustainable water supply.
- c) Direct immediate rescues and evacuation
- d) Direct placement of apparatus
- e) Direct size and placement of initial attack line
- f) Force entry as needed
- g) Establish initial flow path and ventilation.
- h) Join fire attack team in the second position behind the nozzle firefighter.
- i) Announce entry into and exit from the structure
 - i) Entry/Exit used
 - ii) Number of personnel
- j) Take control and direct the fire attack team.
 - i) Conduct primary search on way to the seat of fire.
- k) Announce benchmarks.
 - i) Under Control – Fire contained, no imminent danger
 - ii) All Clear – Primary search complete
 - iii) Loss Stopped – Overhaul complete

5) Second Arriving Engine Officer

- a) Confirm a water supply has been established.
- b) If no assignment has been issued request one from command.
 - i) Level 1 staging
 - ii) Search/rescue
 - iii) Deployment of a backup line or secondary attack line.
- c) Perform a secondary size up

6) Third Arriving Engine Officer

- a) Report availability to command, request assignment
- b) Confirm a water supply has been established.
- c) If no assignment has been issued request one from command.
 - i) Level 1 staging
 - ii) Search/rescue
 - iii) Deployment of a backup line or secondary attack line.
 - iv) Perform a secondary size up
 - v) Supplement suppression system (FDC) with a separate water supply

- 7) Fourth Arriving Engine Officer
 - a) Utilize the crew to establish a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
 - i) RIT operations will consist of a fire company that is immediately available to assist a fire crew or crew member who becomes trapped or in distress
 - ii) Initial RIT operations should not be delayed. Ensure a backup hose team is in place. RIT equipment will be moved into a position where the fire attack crew has made entry.
 - iii) Units assigned to RIT will follow the MABAS Division 112 RIT SOG

- 8) First Arriving Ladder Officer
 - a) While responding a Ladder Company can expect to be given an assignment or a combination of assignments. These may include interior and/or exterior operations.
 - i) Interior Ladder Operations;
 - (a) Forcible entry
 - (b) Search/rescue
 - (c) Electrical utilities
 - (d) Overhaul
 - (e) Salvage
 - ii) Exterior Ladder Operations;
 - (a) Ladder rescue
 - (b) Ventilation
 - (c) Gas utilities
 - (d) Ground ladders, access and egress
 - (e) Roof assessment and report
 - (f) Aerial operations
 - (g) Elevated master streams
 - (h) Scene lighting

- 9) First Arriving Ambulance
 - a) Position ambulance away from fire operations but free to transport any victims
 - b) Stage with cot and response bags near the fire front of building, away from the command post
 - c) Establish/assist with Rehab.

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