

Subject:	INITIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION TACTICS FOR RESIDENTIAL OR PARTIALLY DEVELOPED AREAS
Section:	PPG# 4400.26
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1** The first-in engine company shall first consider laying from the nearest hydrant forward to the fire. If a reverse lay is necessary, the first due company will have to make a judgment on fire severity. If the fire is confined to a small area, e.g., two or less rooms, exterior portions, carports, etc., the first due engine may elect to use booster tank water for the initial attack. On long driveways or narrow dead end streets, etc., a driveway lay shall be made by the first-in engine unless ordered otherwise by an officer.
- 1.2** Special attention shall be given to locating apparatus to provide the pump operator with the best range of visibility while at the same time affording members the convenience of having attack lines coming straight out of the hose bed.
- 1.2.1** Fire apparatus and other rescue equipment placed too close to the involved structure could result in damage caused by heat, falling objects and endangerment due to overhead wires.
- 1.2.2** Fire apparatus must be parked so that egress from the building by its occupants and members is not obstructed.
- 1.2.3** Vehicles such as staff cars and medic vans should be parked to avoid interference with fireground operations.
- 1.3** Hose lays for commercial building fires shall when possible begin with a forward lay using large diameter hose and master stream appliances should be considered first. Reverse lays may be used when a forward lay is not possible.
- 1.3.1** The use of a booster tank as a sole source of attack water on a known fire is acceptable only in unusual situations and after all other alternatives have been attempted.
- 1.4** When laying lines of any type, advance consideration must be given to other factors such as:
- (a)** Water supply and its use, e.g., sprinkler, standpipe, attack lines.
- (b)** Placement of the apparatus.

- (c) Placement of other incoming apparatus, e.g., other engines, ladders.
- (d) Egress by building occupants and members should not be obstructed.

1.5 Merchandise must be protected from secondary loss due to smoke and water. The officer-in-charge must protect contents from looting and pilferage. Interested citizens or spectators should not be permitted to enter a building. When necessary, a guard should be posted at all entrances. Only items and articles authorized by the officer-in-charge, a fire marshal representative or business representative may be removed.

1.6 If it is at all possible, forward hose lays should be made for multi-family dwellings using four-inch hose with considerations for adding a master stream. Reverse lays may be used when a forward lay is not possible due to fire and/or water supply. A large diameter hose or a double header should be considered.

- 1.6.1** The use of the booster tank as a sole source of attack water on a known fire is not an acceptable practice. When a second engine is close behind, the Incident Command Officer may elect to have them lay a supply line.

1.7 When laying lines of any type, advance consideration must be given to other factors such as:

- (a) Water supply and its use such as attack line, sprinkler, standpipe hookup
- (b) Placement of the apparatus
- (c) Placement of other incoming apparatus

1.8 When faced with a working fire on the upper floor in multi-story building that is equipped with standpipes, 1-1/2" and 2-1/2" bundles should be used and an incoming engine assigned to supply the standpipe system.

1.9 Fire fighting operations may have to be temporarily suspended to evacuate occupants. Occupants and members should take advantage of built-in facilities such as smoke-proof stairways and exterior stairs if the building is so equipped. Occupants should not be allowed to use elevators. Members must exercise extreme caution with regards to elevator use. Elevators must be under the direct control of the fire fighting members.

1.10 The horizontal spread of fire must be prevented. Adjoining rooms must be checked for fire advancement and containment

1.11 The following precautions should be taken when dealing with chimney fires:

- (a) Water applied into a chimney may cause cracking of the liner and/or spreading of fire into occupancy. If necessary to use water, use a pump can or chimney nozzle.
- (b) When possible, use chimney chains to knock creosote loose from the sides of the chimney. Extreme care must be used so that metal chimneys are not separated.
- (c) Fire in a fireplace should be extinguished with a pump or spray bottle to prevent unnecessary damage to

Proper salvage equipment (hall runners, debris buckets, tarps, etc.) should be used when

removing soot and unburned fuel to prevent unnecessary damage to the structure.

1.12

The attic area surrounding the chimney where the chimney may come in contact with combustible material should be inspected for cracks and extension of fire.

1.13

The roof area should be visually inspected for sparks, hot embers and/or flying debris. Area surrounding chimney should be checked for charring. Surrounding rooftops should be checked for any sparks, hot embers and/or flying debris.

1.14

After fire is extinguished and smoke has cleared, inside of the chimney should be visually inspected for cracks, excessive soot and/or creosote build-up by a qualified person. The owner should be advised of his/her responsibilities.

1.15

Prior to overhaul, buildings shall be surveyed for possible hazards. All members shall be informed of hazards.

1.16

1.16.1 Once a fire involving a building which has been previously marked as unsafe by county or state inspectors has been extinguished, the overhaul operations shall be held to a minimum, as determined by the Incident Commander.