

1. Scope

This SOG details the basic practices and procedures for responses to all structure fires, including residences, multi-family and commercial properties. Specific procedures for structures greater than three stories are addressed in a separate SOG.

2. General

The Chicora Independent Hose Company will operate under the adopted National Incident Management System (NIMS). The first arriving unit will assume command of the incident until the arrival of a higher-ranking command officer.

a) The standard fire ground priorities are the order by which decisions are generally guided.

They are:

- Preservation of Life (citizens and emergency responders)
 - Conservation of Property
 - Extinguishment
- b) The first arriving unit shall size up the situation and decide what tactics and strategy will be used. The following areas shall be considered before committing firefighters to an operation:
- How much fire is in the structure and where is it located?
 - How long has the building been exposed to fire?
 - How many persons are in the building and what is their condition?
 - How much property is there to be saved?
 - Can a crew or crews enter the structure and stay in long enough to complete the task of fire control?
 - Can ventilation be accomplished safely?
 - Are the resources available to do the jobs?
 - What is the type of building construction?
- c) Rehab procedures will be used at all structure fires and emergency scenes that are extended in duration.

Note: A Safety Officer, Water Officer, and Staging Officer and a RIT Command must be appointed on all structure fire operations. The Incident Commander shall establish a Staging Area on all fires and a Rehab area at all structure fires and incidents that are extended in duration. This area shall be located near the staging area.

3. Personnel Assignments

The department does not use specific job (task) assignments for riding positions in apparatus. Apparatus officers should make job assignments based on the level of training and experience of personnel prior to arrival at scene.

4. Accountability

- a) An accountability officer should be appointed as soon as possible at the onset of the incident. Until an accountability officer is appointed, the first-due apparatus operator will assume the duties of accountability officer.
- b) The accountability officer should be located in close proximity to the incident commander, preferably on the “A” side of the structure. The accountability officer should be clearly visible to all arriving personnel.
- c) Refer to CIHC *Accountability System, SOG 200-0012* for a full description and procedures of our Accountability System.

5. Positioning of Apparatus

- a) If an engine is the first apparatus on scene, the operator should position the apparatus to allow space for incoming aerial apparatus. This may mean stopping short or past the fire building to allow space for the aerial to set up. The aerial will normally set up at the A-B or A-D corner of the building. (See also SOG 200-0005, *Aerial Apparatus Operations*.)
- b) Operators should always evaluate existing and potential safety hazards when deciding on apparatus placement. These considerations include, but are not limited to, overhead wires, presence of hazardous materials and proximity to the fire building.

6. Entry Procedures

It is extremely important that the first arriving unit determine what method of attack to use, offensive or defensive, based on initial size-up and 360-degree walk-around.

1) Offensive attack:

- a) An offensive attack is an aggressive interior attack. Fire conditions allow handlines to be advanced into the fire area. The offensive attack is a fast-moving operation to control the fire in the area of origin before it has a chance to spread.
- b) When the Incident Commander decides to make an interior attack all efforts shall be directed to the support and backup of the attack teams, backup lines, exposure protection, water sup-

ply, and SCBA resupplying should be handled by second- and third-arriving crews or by any additional firefighters that arrive on scene.

- c) Before any firefighter enters a building or area charged with smoke the Incident Commander must conduct the following:
 - i. Conduct 360-degree size-up.
 - ii. Establish a plan of action.
 - iii. Establish formal command.
 - iv. Ensure full protective clothing and SCBA are in use.
- d) No firefighter shall enter a building or area charged with smoke without a charged line. A minimum of two 1-3/4 inch lines or greater will be deployed and manned on all structure fires. If manpower permits, a third line should be deployed as a reserve. At no time will booster lines be used on structural fires.
- e) All firefighters who enter a building or area charged with smoke will enter with full protective clothing and SCBA and as a team (two or more). At no time will a firefighter enter a building or area charged with smoke without the required equipment or alone. Every person who responds on a fire emergency shall be accounted for by the Incident Commander.

2) **Defensive Attack:**

- a) A defensive attack is an exterior attack. When this type of attack is used, it is because existing conditions prohibit an offensive attack. A defensive attack employs large volumes of water to protect exposures. This operation is considered a heavy-duty attack that places emphasis on exposure protection and on stopping the spread of fire.
- b) If an interior attack has been made and the fire suppression operation is ineffective or the structure becomes unsafe, the Incident Commander or Safety Officer will pull all crews back and initiate a defensive operation. The Incident Commander shall never conduct an offensive and defensive operation on the same structure at the same time.

3) **Special Precautions:**

- a) No firefighter shall enter a structure while master streams are directed toward or near the structure.
- b) SCBA's shall be worn as needed on fires in a defensive mode operation and during salvage and overhaul operations.
- c) When the fire is brought under control, and the structure has been evaluated for stability, the Incident Commander shall give the order to salvage property and overhaul the fire. A charged 1-3/4" line shall remain with personnel during salvage and overhaul. The suppression teams

should use proper salvage techniques and overhaul hidden fires as needed without destroying possible leads to determine the fire cause and origin.

- d) If an air cascade unit has not responded with the first alarm assignment, the Incident Commander should request Control to respond the nearest cascade unit.

4) **Ventilation:**

- a) Before crews enter a building or area charged with smoke, the Incident Commander shall ensure that ventilation and attack are coordinated and that flow path control is in place. Firefighters should be aware of back draft hazards before entering a structure filled with smoke.

7. Water Supply

- a) The Incident Commander shall consider needed water supply as one of his top priorities on all structure fires. An engine or other apparatus that has the capability to draft from or operate from a hydrant should be placed at the nearest water source to speed up establishing a reliable water supply.
- b) Whenever possible a Water Supply Officer (WSO) shall be appointed at the fire scene to monitor the water supply operations and keep the Incident Commander informed of water flow.
- c) At no time will a pump operator with attack lines out and being re-supplied by water tender apparatus let his pumper water tanks get below 1/2 of a tank of water at a fire scene. The attack can continue upon the re-establishment of water from a tanker or hydrant. Pump operators should not let the water supply be exhausted with firefighters inside a burning building, at any time. Safety must always be maintained first.

8. Investigation and Fire Reports

- a) The Incident Commander shall attempt to obtain all available information concerning the cause of the structure fire. Firefighters on scene will be advised not to destroy or move anymore property than they have to. This is particularly important if the cause of the fire is suspicious or if there are fatalities.
- b) A preliminary fire report using the forms in each apparatus shall be filled out at the scene and the final report entered into the fire reporting software at the station.
- c) The Fire Chief or the Officer on duty has the responsibility of contacting the PSP Fire Marshal's office if the cause of the fire is suspicious, there are fatalities or the assistance in determining the cause of the fire is needed.
- d) If a body or bodies are found and it is determined they are dead, the body or bodies should not be removed until an police investigation can be made. The Incident Commander shall request Control to notify PSP that a dead body or bodies are found at the fire scene. If the Incident Commander cannot determine the body or bodies are dead or if they are endangered by the spread of the fire, only then should they be removed from the fire area.

9.0 Related SOGs

The following CIHC SOGs are also relevant to structural firefighting operations:

- *Emergency Vehicle Response*, SOG 100-0009
- *Aerial Apparatus Operation*, SOG 200-0005
- *Emergency Evacuation of a Structure*, SOG 200-0010
- *Mayday Procedure*, SOG 200-0011
- *Accountability System*, SOG 200-0012
- *Breathing Air*, SOG 200-0013

10. Revision History

06/09/2019 Approved for release by Chief Cody Craig.

6/12/2019 Correction of formating problems and addition of related SOGs section. (Rick Craig)