



Division 06 Fire and Rescue Operations

Chapter 02 – Basement Fire Procedures

March 2009

POLICY

To establish a consistent and safe operations at structural fire emergencies involving basement fires in townhouses and detached single family dwellings.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES

1. Box Alarm –Townhouse and Single Family Dwelling

1st Due Engine

Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally be positioned on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services positioning to accomplish their responsibilities.

The Unit Officer-in-Charge (OIC) shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address
- Announce number of floors
- Announce type of construction
- Announce type of occupancy
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information, and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance

with the General Order governing Emergency Vehicle Operations and Level of Response.

- If no command officer is on the scene, and the IMS has not been established, the Unit OIC shall establish or pass command. If establishing, identify the “COMMAND” by street name and announce location of Incident Command Post (ICP).
- If the Unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of the crew, he/she shall pass command. When command has been passed, the 2nd due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by an on-scene command officer. If passing, announce “Passing Command.”

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to the position at the top of the steps and advance down the steps of the mode of attack dictates it. Define mode of attack.

- Holding the steps – “the attack line is used to prevent vertical fire spread and protects crews engaged in search and rescue operations.”
 - If a door is present, keep it closed to minimize vertical travel of heat and smoke.
 - If no door is present, prevent vertical fire spread with the use of the handline. Do not direct stream down the stairwell while crews are operating in the basement.



- Position to protect the stairs while monitoring division conditions and means of egress.

- Direct attack via interior stairwell – “the attack line is taken directly down the interior stairway to confine and extinguish the main body of fire.” (Consider good visual of the stairs and/or the extent of the fire.)
- Announce Mode of attack.

Public Safety Communications (PSC) will announce “Working Fire in Basement” and the “Mode of Attack” once determined and announced by Command or the First Engine Company Officer.

2nd Due Engine

Ensure adequate water supply to 1st due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1st due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived, the 2nd due engine OIC shall establish Command, in accordance with Departmental policies, and assume the role of IC until relieved by an on-scene command officer.

The 2nd due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with the General Order governing 2 In 2 Out.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should advance an attack hose line with greater GPM flow than the initial attack hose line, and of sufficient length to the exterior doorway or entrance to the basement. If no exterior doorway or entrance exists this must be relayed to command. NO ATTACK ON

THE FIRE SHALL COMMENCE WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER.

- This line shall be used to attack the main body of fire in the basement if the “Hold the Steps” attack is chosen. If there is no exterior entrance, the line may be used to knock down the fire from a basement window or other opening. NO ATTACK ON THE FIRE SHALL COMMENCE WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

3rd Due Engine

Establish a secondary water supply from a source not being used by the 1st due engine. This shall be accomplished by use of a straight lay, or by a reverse lay from the fire building to the source.

Unit OIC shall complete a size-up of side Charlie and provide a brief radio report to the IC to include:

- Number of floors on side Charlie.
- Conditions present and location of fire, if known.
- Any rescue problems.
- Any other information that might need tactical consideration.
- Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.
- Unless directed otherwise by the IC, advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to BACK UP THE ATTACK LINE POSITIONED ABOVE THE FIRE. The crew should position to maintain contact with the First Due



Engine holding the steps to ensure their safety and prevent vertical fire spread which may trap the initial crew.

- Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

4th Due Engine

Ensure adequate water supply to 3rd due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should stand by and await further direction.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned.

1st Due Truck

Position on side Alpha to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Alpha and Bravo to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the first floor, (a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started and is to be conducted by another Special Service or as indicated by the Incident Commander.

- Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.
- Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- Floor above the fire.
- Other areas.
- The fire area.
- The area adjacent to the fire area.

- Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the first floor in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and hose line placement.
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC.
- Utility Control.
- Check for extension.
- Salvage and overhaul.

Unit OIC shall act as the supervisor of the first floor or Division One until the Division supervisor function is reassigned.

Report conditions to the IC.

- Progress made.
- Obstacles met.
- Resources needed.

2nd Due Truck

Position in a way to enable personnel to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation to side Charlie.

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Charlie and Delta to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.



Ensure that a primary search is conducted in the Basement, and ensure that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

- Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.
- Searches shall begin in areas of most danger with:
 - The Fire Area in Basement.
 - Area adjacent to the fire area.
 - Floor above the fire.
 - Other areas.
- Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort, and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

- Report to the IC.
- Complete size-up.
- Assemble tools.
- Develop rescue plan.
- Monitor radio channels.

In the unusual circumstance that the 3rd due special service is reassigned by the IC for other operations due to arrival sequence or other factors, such as multiple rescues in progress, the IC shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another engine or special service that is uncommitted or requested.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A

Perform the following truck company operations in the basement in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and hose line placement.
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC.
- Utility Control.
- Check for extension.
- Salvage and overhaul.

Unit OIC shall act as the supervisor of the Basement Division until the Division supervisor function is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC.

- Progress made.
- Obstacles met.
- Resources needed.

Rescue Squad or 3rd Due Ladder Truck

Establish RIC in accordance with the Departmental policy which includes the following: