

<i>HIGH RISE OPERATIONS</i>		TROY FIRE DEPT. TACTICAL PLAN 208.05	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>12/00</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>05/13</i>
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A high-rise fire situation presents unusual problems for firefighters. Most of these problems involve difficulties in gaining access to the fire, the number of occupants who may be trapped above the fire, removal of smoke, and the complexities of the building's construction features.

The need to quickly mount an aggressive and coordinated interior attack has proven to be the most effective means of handling a high-rise fire situation.

INITIAL ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at the scene of a high-rise incident, the first arriving firefighter or fire officer must perform a size-up of the situation and give a report of conditions over the radio. This can be accomplished by checking the building's alarm panel for indications of activated smoke detector(s), water flow(s), or running fire pump; or information provided by occupants.

The second arriving engine will be assigned to the FDC. Other arriving apparatus shall stage in a position to allow for deployment of equipment, and/or to maneuver to a different position around the building.

ACTIVATED ALARM - NO FIRE INDICATED

Based on the initial size-up, the Incident Commander (IC) may assign an investigation crew to proceed to the alarm floor to investigate the source of the alarm. This crew should consist of a minimum of two firefighters in full PPE equipped with a portable radio responsible for locating the activated alarm device and coordinating a reset with the panel.

The following alarm conditions may be present at the panel:

- Trouble Indication. (Typically an indication of a problem in the system of a supervisory nature.) This type of situation involves attempting a reset at the panel. If a reset cannot be accomplished, the alarm company and/or building representative shall be notified to see that it is repaired.
- Single Zone Smoke Detector. This type of situation involves acknowledging the alarm and identifying the activated detector prior to attempting a reset at the panel. This may be accomplished by locating the actual device or by the indication on the alarm panel depending on the type of panel present. If a reset cannot be accomplished, that detector shall be removed, the panel left in trouble, and the alarm company and/or building representative notified to have the necessary repairs made.

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- Single Zone Waterflow. This involves acknowledging the alarm, noting the zone, and attempting a reset at the panel. If a reset cannot be accomplished, the zone shall be located and investigated for signs of flowing water. This zone may need to be shut down until repairs can be made. If so, the Duty Officer shall be notified.
- Fire Pump Running. This type of situation involves acknowledging the alarm and attempting a reset at the panel. If a reset cannot be accomplished, a crew shall be sent to the pump room to stop the fire pump. If the fire pump cannot be stopped, the alarm company and/or building representative shall be notified to have the necessary repairs made. The Duty Officer shall be notified as well for follow up.
- Multiple Zone Smoke Detectors. This shall be treated as a working fire situation until determined otherwise. In an effort to better identify specific floor(s) involved, a reset shall be attempted. If alarm(s) reactivate, crew(s) shall be deployed for fire attack.
- Multiple Waterflows (with or without fire pump running). This shall be treated as a working fire situation until determined otherwise. In an effort to better identify specific floor(s) involved, a reset shall be attempted. If alarm(s) reactivate, crew(s) shall be deployed for fire attack.
- Combined Smoke Detector(s) and Water Flow(s). This shall be treated as a working fire situation until determined otherwise. In an effort to better identify specific floor(s) involved, a reset shall be attempted. If alarm(s) reactivate, crew(s) shall be deployed for fire attack.

WORKING FIRE

If the size-up indicates a working fire, arriving apparatus shall report to their assigned locations and deploy necessary firefighting equipment. Firefighters in full PPE shall gather this equipment and report to the building's lobby to stage and receive an assignment. The IC shall assign attack crew(s) consisting of an officer and three firefighters, if possible, to proceed to the fire floor to begin the task of fire suppression or rescue. Each crew shall be equipped with a portable radio, a firefighter's phone, a high rise hose kit, and the necessary building keys to allow entry. Additional crews shall then be assigned to assist with fire suppression and rescue as needed.

FIRE FLOOR ACCESS

If conditions permit, firefighting crews shall proceed to a designated elevator and ascend to two floors below the fire floor or the next closest clear floor. Firefighting crews will then

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proceed to the fire floor by use of the stairs. A firefighter assigned to the alarm panel shall disable any/all locking mechanisms to ensure unrestricted access by firefighters.

COMMAND POST

A command post (CP) must be established and identified. It is important that the command post be somewhat isolated from firefighting activities and building occupants. Depending on the building's layout, this command post may be located at the alarm panel or outside in a designated vehicle. If the CP is outside, then a firefighter or fire officer with a radio shall be assigned to the alarm panel.

TACTICAL PRIORITIES

The life safety aspects of a high rise fire are always a primary concern of the fire department. These aspects include the safety of firefighters as well as occupants. Tactical priorities, however, must be consistent with the Incident Command System Tactical Plan. If attack crew(s) have reported a working fire, the following must be ensured:

- 1) A continuous water supply.
 - a) Assign a pumper to the F.D.C. to provide water if needed. Determine if the building is equipped with a fire pump. (If the building's fire pump is running the FDC connection becomes a lower priority but must still be made.)
 - b) Assign a firefighter with a radio to the building's fire pump to verify that it is running and insure that it continues to run by manually placing the pump in the "on" position until advised otherwise.
- 2) A primary search is conducted above the fire floor.
 - a) A fire attack crew must be assigned to report on conditions above the fire floor as soon as possible. This report shall include the location of any occupants and the extent of fire or smoke.
 - b) Fire attack crews must provide the IC with a CAN report. This report shall also include if there is a need for evacuation or relocation of occupants. Only after a crew gives an "all clear" should the IC consider a floor or area clear of occupants.
- 3) Coordinated ventilation.
 - a) A method of removing smoke from the building must be established as soon as possible. This is especially important when conducting evacuation and fire

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attack operations. Stairwell pressurization must be insured in order to keep the exit stairs clear for occupants and firefighters.

- b) If the building is equipped with a smoke removal system, this system shall be used and conditions closely monitored.
 - c) If the building is equipped with breakable glass, this method shall be closely coordinated so that an area (200' radius or more) below the chosen window(s) can be kept clear for falling glass. Such windows may be identified by a sticker or tag and include the following buildings:
 - i) 50 W. Big Beaver
 - ii) 100 W. Big Beaver
 - iii) 901 Wilshire
 - iv) 3310 W. Big Beaver
 - d) Fire department fans/blowers may be used in conjunction with building equipped methods. Ventilation shall be consistent with the Ventilation Tactical Plan.
- 4) Adequate resources.
- a) A working fire situation will quickly utilize an entire Box Alarm assignment. Therefore, the IC must evaluate assigned resources and consider additional alarm(s) as soon as it is determined that there is a fire in the building.
 - b) A forward position shall be established two floors below the fire if possible. If conditions do not allow for this, then the next closest clear floor shall be used.
 - c) The forward position shall consist of a minimum of one fire officer with a firefighter's telephone, a radio, and additional firefighters and equipment, especially air bottles.
- 5) Staging.
- a) A staging area must be assigned for additional apparatus and firefighters. If a staging area has not been established, arriving units shall stage themselves in a nearby parking lot or an area where apparatus can be easily maneuvered. Firefighters' personal vehicles must be parked in a manner that will allow access to the scene by other units. Staging shall be consistent with the Staging tactical plan.

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- 6) Lobby control.
 - a) A firefighter or fire officer with a radio shall be assigned to coordinate waiting firefighters and control the use of elevators
- 7) Medical resources.
 - a) Firefighters may rapidly become fatigued and overexerted in a working fire situation. Rehab shall be established within the Staging Area, consistent with the Staging tactical plan, with adequate medical resources.
 - b) If occupant(s) are located they may need immediate medical treatment. It is important to have an adequate number of medical resources at the scene in order to treat these patients.
- 8) Elevator use.
 - a) A firefighter equipped with a firefighter's phone shall be assigned to operate each elevator used. This will assure availability of the elevator(s) throughout the incident.
 - b) Elevator(s) shall be placed in "Fire Service" mode prior to use. This is accomplished by placing the elevator lobby switch in "Fire Service" and the elevator car in "Fire Service".
 - c) Controls shall be manually tested while ascending to insure proper operation of the elevator car. While this is done, a visual inspection of the upper elevator shaft should be done to avoid entering a smoke filled environment.
 - d) In working fire situations, elevators will not be used unless it can be verified that fire has not entered the elevator shaft, or the elevator control room. If heavy smoke is encountered in any elevator shaft, that elevator must be placed out of service.