



## Structure Fires

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Taylors Bridge Fire Department, Inc.  
Standard Operating Guidelines

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## 1.0 Scope

- 1.1. This guide applies to all career and volunteer personnel of Taylors Bridge Fire Department. The department has the responsibility for the safe and effective extinguishment of any residential structure fire.

## 2.0 Purpose

- 2.1. This guide is intended to adapt *normal* standard operating guidelines for extinguishment of residential structure fires. This guide in *no way* covers all aspects that may be encountered while fighting a residential structure fire.

## 3.0 Responsibility

- 3.1. All personnel shall consider personal safety as well as the safety of the general public when responding to residential structure fires.
- 3.2. All personnel will consider their safety as well as the safety of the general public while at the scene.
- 3.3. Personnel will wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) including SCBA when extinguishing structure fires. If possible, this equipment should be donned prior to response or during response. Follow SOP Personal Protective Equipment policy.
- 3.4. All reports of "Possible structure fire" will be considered as reports of actual fire in progress until investigated by Fire-Rescue personnel.

## 4.0 Initial Response

- 4.1. Consider safety hazards prior to arrival on scene based on information provided by Fire-Rescue Communications.
- 4.2. The apparatus should not try to pull past the fire building. The firefighter assuming command must walk and observe to provide an initial 3-side size up.



- 4.3. Consider apparatus exposure when parking apparatus. Park unit up wind and up hill if you can.
- 4.4. Initial arriving engine companies will need to consider the possible need for ladder placement. Position accordingly. The first due engine and rescue should respond directly to the fire. All other units should Level I stage unless directed otherwise.
- 4.5. Rescue units should place their apparatus in a location that will provide maximum ingress and egress for possible medical/rescue support and not impede the movement of other apparatus. Personnel assigned to rescue apparatus will report to Incident Command in full PPE.

## **5.0 Strategic planning**

- 5.1. Life safety is the highest priority at all structure fires.
- 5.2. The primary objective should be achieved through aggressive interior fire containment and primary search. All operational tactics should be assigned to support this goal.
- 5.3. When it has been confirmed that all occupants of the structure have been accounted for, the strategic goal should then focus on firefighter safety and fire extinguishment.
- 5.4. Strategies listed by priority are as follows:
  - 5.4.1. Rescue
  - 5.4.2. Protect exposures
  - 5.4.3. Confine the fire
  - 5.4.4. Extinguish the fire
- 5.5. The conservation of property should be a strategic goal throughout the entire incident.
- 5.6. Single family dwellings versus Multi family dwellings will cause variations in the Incident Action Plan. Knowledge of building construction and design will help in plan development.



## 6.0 Establishment of Command

- 6.1. Command of incidents in St. Johns County will be established in accordance with SOP-Chapter 5 Incident Management System Policy. Refer to this policy and SOP Chapter 6 Chain of Command for definitions.
- 6.2. The first arriving unit ought to establish command. Certain situations will require Command to provide immediate assistance and direct involvement in the attack. This "Fast Attack mode" should not last more than a few minutes and will end with one of the following:
  - 6.2.1. The situation is stabilized
  - 6.2.2. The situation is not stabilized and Command must withdraw to establish a command post.
  - 6.2.3. Command is transferred.
- 6.3. Command will be assumed from the first arriving unit in accordance with county ICS policy.

## 7.0 Command Priorities

- 7.1. The rescue of entrapped occupants should be addressed through an aggressive interior primary search, focusing first on the area nearest the fire. At least 3 members, with the incident commander acting as a 4th, should be assembled before initiating interior firefighting operations. Exception: If upon arrival at the scene, members find an imminent life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than three persons on the scene.
- 7.2. Protect exposures early on with appropriate handlines.
- 7.3. Establishment of an effective water supply is critical to success.
- 7.4. Confine the fire through rapid advancement of an interior attack line(s).



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- 7.5. Accountability of personnel is a high priority early on during the incident. No personnel should enter the structure without first being recognized through the departments accountability system. Command should make every effort to keep crews intact and working together, assigning volunteers and personnel arriving POV to existing on scene apparatus and crews.
- 7.6. Imminent collapse/building evacuation will be signaled by the continuous blasts of airhorns and/or high-low electronic siren until stopped by command. Radio communication will consist of "Evacuate, Evacuate, Evacuate". These signals call for the immediate evacuation of the building as well as the collapse zone. Personnel will report to their assigned apparatus officer or leader, who will provide a par count to command.
- 7.7. Response of adequate number of personnel and apparatus to handle the incident. Rehab of personnel will require additional resources.
- 7.8. Command must develop a realistic rescue size up as early as possible. Attack size up must consider all sides of the fire, plus areas above and below.
- 7.9. Assignment of a RIT team should be recognized early and assigned accordingly. Appropriate tools should be gathered and staged by the RIT.
- 7.10. All of these priorities are addressed in the Incident Action Plan that is developed by the Incident Commander.

## **8.0 General Tactics**

- 8.1. The rescue problem should be addressed through an aggressive interior primary search for life that focuses on the area near the fire, as well as the bedrooms and means of egress.
- 8.2. When the rescue apparatus arrives with the first arriving engine company and there is no need for the treatment of trapped or injured occupants, the unit should be utilized in the fire combat role for primary extinguishment, secondary back (RIT), establishing a water supply, etc. as directed by command.



- 8.3. The interior exposure problem should be addressed through rapid containment of the fire. This must include advancement of an interior attack line to protect any occupants within the structure, focusing on the interior stairway, if present, or other vertical voids. The interior fire will be of two types: fires involving only the contents or fires that involve contents and structural members. The latter scenario provides the means for fire to extend throughout the structure.
- 8.4. The exterior exposure problem should be addressed through aggressive offensive interior attack, offensive exterior attack, or protecting the exposures with a defensive attack.
- 8.5. The confinement of the fire should be achieved through the rapid advancement of an interior attack line to protect the interior stairway and advance to the seat of the fire. If it cannot be ensured that rapid extinguishment will be achieved, then it is imperative that the hose line(s) is located in such a way as to protect victims.
- 8.6. The extinguishment of fire should be achieved through the proper selection, placement, and application of the attack line(s). The normal attack line for most single family dwellings will be at least a 1.5 inch line. For larger fires that require higher flows, 1.75 inch lines or greater may need to be used.
- 8.7. Ventilation should be achieved by those methods deemed appropriate for the present fire conditions. Natural horizontal ventilation is usually considered the first choice. The reasons for venting should be identified and communicated to assigned units.
- 8.8. Ventilation can be critical in facilitating a primary search. This can be accomplished through aggressive removal or opening of selected windows where occupants might be located.
- 8.9. The need for roof openings typically will be required when the fire has entered the attic area or has gained access to vertical void spaces. Conventional construction provides the needed support to accomplish rooftop ventilation. Lightweight construction may result in early collapse. Gable ends should be removed prior to rooftop ventilation considerations. Crews ordered to perform rooftop ventilation in lightweight construction should be supported by the use of aerial devices if available.



- 8.10. Fire travel within these types of structures will be affected by the method of construction. Balloon frame and platform frame construction methods are common and each present different concerns. Wood frame construction requires the checking of all levels within the structure. Fire should be suspected of having entered the exterior walls. All vertical voids must be checked for the presence of fire with attention given to the plumbing and heating areas.

## **9.0 Apparatus Positioning**

- 9.1. A position should be taken to allow for rapid advancement of hose lines into the structure (after viewing as many sides as possible). Priority position for the aerial apparatus should be considered if responding.
- 9.2. In those situations in which a FDC is present for either a standpipe or sprinkler system, an apparatus should be positioned for immediate supply to the FDC. This can be achieved by the first arriving engine, with visual evidence of smoke or flames from the structure, or may be directed to additional arriving apparatus. Consider response times for your additional units should the first apparatus pass.
- 9.3. The first arriving ladder company (tower) shall take a position at the most strategic location that will allow for the rapid placement of ladders and entry into the structure.
- 9.4. The second arriving engine company can be utilized to establish an adequate water supply, by hydrant or dump tank methods as applicable. They may also be utilized for other duties per command. Strong consideration should be given to Level I staging on a hydrant, if available.
- 9.5. The third arriving engine company should Level I stage unless otherwise directed by command. Once at the fire, position to allow rapid access to the structure while maintaining access and egress to the incident for additional resources.



- 9.6. The first arriving rescue company should be positioned to allow rapid access to the structure while maintaining access and egress to the incident for additional resources or the transport of potential injuries. In the event a rescue unit is responding directly to the fire scene with the engine company, consider establishing water supply by closest available hydrant.
- 9.7. All volunteer personnel responding in personal vehicles will position their vehicles out of the way of arriving fire apparatus and report in to command. The Incident Commander may assign these personnel to an apparatus or a crew carrying out specific responsibilities.
- 9.8. Staging (Level I or II) of responding apparatus should be considered unless directed otherwise.

## **10.0 Engine Company Tactics-Water Supply**

- 10.1. The first arriving engine shall proceed to the dispatched location to assess the extent of involvement. As visual conditions upon approach warrant the laying in of supply hose, this shall be done if the availability of hydrants will enable the company to do so.
- 10.2. The first arriving engine will communicate to the second arriving engine as to their intentions. The second arriving engine will be responsible for laying in should the first arriving pass.

## **11.0 Engine Company Tactics-On Scene Report**

- 11.1. The first arriving report shall include the following information in the on scene report for a working fire:
  - 11.1.1. Brief description of what you see from your vehicle.(i.e. "flames or smoke showing, "nothing showing")
  - 11.1.2. Other obvious conditions
  - 11.1.3. Brief description of the action that will be taken.
  - 11.1.4. Declaration of strategy.
  - 11.1.5. Any obvious safety concerns.
  - 11.1.6. Assumption, identification, and location of Command
  - 11.1.7. Water supply and layout location





- 11.2. Command should attempt to view all sides of the structure, noting location and extent of smoke and fire, rescues, access points, utilities, and exposures.

## **12.0 Engine Company Tactics-Initial Lines**

- 12.1. The initial line for most fires within a typical structure will be the 1.5 or 1.75 inch pre-connect line, allowing for the needed speed, mobility, and fire flow. The first arriving engine crew will generally be responsible for deploying this line.
- 12.2. The purpose of the initial attack line is to protect the occupants and firefighters, and confinement and extinguishment of the fire by advancing the hose line to the seat of the fire, providing the appropriate water stream extinguishing methods to reduce further danger to occupants and firefighters present in the structure, and reduce property damage.
- 12.3. The advancement of the initial attack line will generally be made through the doorway of the structure. The attack shall be made from the unburned portion of the structure toward the seat of the fire.
- 12.4. The conditions found upon arrival and the information gained during the size up may dictate changes in these tactics. (i.e. larger hose lines, master streams, etc.)

## **13.0 Engine Company tactics-Back up lines**

- 13.1. The back up line for most structure fires will be the minimum of 1.5 inch, allowing for the needed speed, mobility, and fire flow. The line should be of sufficient length to reach the location of the initial attack line or to be advanced to the area above the fire, if required.
- 13.2. The back up line will generally be stretched from the first arriving engine company apparatus. In most cases, this task will be accomplished by the second arriving engine or personnel assigned by command.

 <p>The logo for Taylors Bridge Fire Rescue, Sampson County, North Carolina. It features a circular emblem with a red and blue border. Inside the circle, the text 'Taylors Bridge' is at the top, 'FIRE RESCUE' is in the center in large yellow letters, 'Sampson County' is below that, and 'NORTH CAROLINA' is at the bottom.</p>	<p>Taylors Bridge Fire Department, Inc. Standard Operating Guidelines</p>	<p>Procedure: <b>SOG-804</b> Date: <b>06/15/04</b> Page: <b>10 of 10</b> Revision: <b>A</b></p>
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## 14.0 Engine Company Tactics-Lines Above the Fire

- 14.1. The need for a third line to operate above the fire, independent of the previously required lines, should be planned for in the event of fire spread. This need, however, may not exist. No more than two hose lines should be stretched through any one entrance into a building. The advancement of additional lines should incorporate alternate means of entry.
- 14.2. The lines assigned to the floor above the fire in these types of structures shall be the minimum of 1.5 inch, allowing for the needed speed, mobility, and fire flow.
- 14.3. These lines should be of sufficient length to reach the area above the fire and into the attic, if required. The unit these lines are deployed from will be at the discretion of the Incident Commander or designee.