

**STRUCTURAL FIRE OPERATIONS INVOLVING BOW STRING TRUSS
ROOFS**

Purpose:

To establish a guideline to be used in combating a fire in any structure which has a bow string truss roof.

Guidelines:

- A. If smoke or fire is showing and no life hazards exists, first arriving companies shall use extreme caution before entering the structure.
- B. Should the Incident Commander determine that the structure can or should be entered, the following guideline will apply:
 - 1. The first engine company should lay a 2 ½" attack line.
 - 2. If the first attack line does not control the fire within the first few seconds of water application and it appears that the fire will increase, interior firefighting should be discontinued.
 - 3. If the fire appears to be in or at the truss level, be it concealed or not, no entry of the structure should be made and the attack should change from an interior offensive to an exterior defensive attack.
 - 4. Fire apparatus should be located at a distance safe from collapse of the structure walls.
 - 5. Ventilation should be performed only from an independent source of support, such as an aerial ladder or adjacent structure and then only if it is absolutely essential that the building be ventilated.