

HIGH-RISE FIRE OPERATIONS

Purpose:

- A. To provide a means of combating fires in high-rise buildings.
- B. To gain control of the building early in the fire.
- C. To insure the safety of all the building occupants.

Policy:

High-rise fire guidelines shall be followed on any structure that is four stories or more.

Guidelines:

- A. The first-in company should enter the lobby and obtain whatever information is available and give a conditions report.
- B. Locate the fire and relay information concerning the following:
 - 1. Reported location of the fire (if known).
 - 2. Safety of the elevators. Are they useable?
- C. Call for additional help, if necessary.

Safety:

- A. Establish lobby control early in the fire to control elevators, utilities and keep a running list of personnel in and out of the building.
- B. The outside area below the fire should be kept clear for 200 feet in all directions due to the possibility of broken glass falling from above.
- C. The Command Post should be a minimum of 200 feet from the fire building.
- D. If elevators are judged safe to use, proceed two floors below the fire floor and use stairwells the rest of the distance.
- E. For rescue purposes, there are generally approximately 100 occupants per floor in a high-rise building.
- F. The initial fire attack crew will need relief in 20 minutes (this includes the time it takes to ascend to the fire floor).

Communications:

- A. Communications are usually poor in a “steel skeleton” building utilizing portable radios. Sometimes, moving to open windows or to the roof will improve communications.
- B. It may be possible to utilize the buildings intercom or phone system.

- C. To minimize radio traffic over the emergency scene channel interior sector officers may make use of the buildings telephone system to contact the Command Post through the cellular telephone system.

Operations:

- A. Locate fire – leaving one member in the lobby to establish lobby control.
- B. Prepare for standpipe operations. Pump to both standpipe and sprinkler systems.
- C. If evacuation is necessary, you may be able to move the occupants to safe areas two or three floors below the fire, rather than evacuating everyone out by way of the lobby.
- D. A Command Post shall be established and other high-rise operational positions shall be implemented as needed to insure an efficient operation.
- E. Ventilation is most effectively carried out by removing (if possible) or breaking out the windows on the fire floor (horizontal ventilation).
- F. If you must ventilate vertically using stairwells, make sure that escape is not cut off for anyone; also that only a smoke tower stairwell is used.