

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Engine Company Operations in Single Family Dwellings

Standard Operating Guideline

General:

- Fires discussed will be based on the need for one or two handlines. Due to the combustible nature of both interior and exterior building materials, fire can spread rapidly. The unprotected, open interior stairwell to the upper floors acts as a natural flue for fire spread. Small rooms and narrow stairs are commonly found in these dwellings. Due to the need for speed and mobility, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " lines are recommended.
- Engine company officers shall direct their engine to take a position at a serviceable hydrant.
- Using booster tank water while hooking up to a hydrant may speed up operations. The engine company officer should not hesitate calling for booster tank water when necessary. The Driver/Operator must inform the officer when the engine is operating with hydrant water.
- Sufficient hose must be stretched to cover the anticipated fire area. Members shall spread out on the hoseline at the entrance to provide for efficient advancement. The line should be flaked out, charged, and bled before entering the fire area.
- The primary consideration for the placement of the first line is through the front door for the protection of the interior stairs.

First Floor Fires:

- **First Line:** Through the front door to extinguish the fire and protect the interior stairwell.
- **Second Line:** Standby, where appropriate, as a back up for the 1st line. If not needed to back up the 1st line, it can be used to extinguish any fire that may extend to the upper floors or to exposures.
- **Third Line:** As ordered by the Incident Commander.

Upper Floor Fires:

- **First Line:** Through the front door and up the interior stairs to the fire floor. If

alterations negate access to the upper floors by way of the front entrance, locate and stretch via the stairway allowing access to the fire area.

- **Second Line:** Standby, where appropriate, as a back up for the 1st line. If not needed to back up the 1st line, it can be used to extinguish any fire that is discovered in the cellar or has extended to the attic
- **Third Line:** As ordered by the Incident Commander.

Fully Involved Buildings:

- The 1st arriving engine should consider stretching two handlines.
- Units shall maintain the front of fire building accessible for aerial ladder placement.
- Operate the line on the exterior to prevent auto exposure before entering the building. Wood frame buildings that initially appear fully involved may only have their exterior siding burning.
- Consider stretching a 2½-inch line for a faster knock down.

Exposure Protection:

- Fire “lapping” out of a window, or burning on the exterior of a building, presents a serious exposure problem.
- Openings in the underside of eaves (i.e. vent openings) or deteriorated siding may allow for fire extension to the attic of an exposure or the original fire building.
- Units operating a line to extinguish fire on the exterior of a building should sweep the line across the face of the building, starting at the top, so the water cascades down the exterior.
- Do not operate the stream directly into the windows.

Cellar Fires:

- **First Line:** Through the front door and down to the cellar via the interior stairs. If unable to advance into the cellar, (due to heavy fire, large amount of debris, stairway blocked or sealed off, etc.) position hoseline to:
 - Protect the interior stairway
 - Protect the truck company performing the primary search
 - Extinguish the fire that may extend to upper floors

Initially stretching a hoseline through the side door and down to the cellar via the interior stairs should only be attempted when:

- The integrity of the first floor is not endangered.
- The side door leads directly into the cellar and first floor.
- There is room on the side of the house to position the line.
- The time required to position a charged hose line is weighed against potential fire growth.

If the 1st line cannot advance down the interior stairs, or no interior access to the cellar exists, then the 2nd line must enter the cellar via the side or rear entrance. This operation must be coordinated with the unit operating the initial line.

- **Second Line:** Standby outside the fire building or at the top of the cellar stairs, as a back up for the 1st line. If not needed to back up the 1st line, it can be used to extinguish any fire that may extend to the upper floors.

If the 1st line cannot advance down the interior stairs, or no interior access to the cellar exists, then the 2nd line must enter the cellar via the side or rear entrance. This operation must be coordinated with the unit operating the initial line.

- **Third Line:** As ordered by the Incident Commander.