

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Truck Company Operations in Cellar Fires

Standard Operating Guideline

General:

Locating a cellar fire may be difficult, particularly when the building is closed.

Suspect a cellar fire if smoke shows in many stores and there is a high heat condition on the first floor with no visible flame in either case.

In taxpayers do not expect to find the cellar layout conforming to the first floor layout.

First floor fires may be extensions of cellar fires. Conversely, first floor fires may drop down and start a cellar fire. Cellars must always be checked.

Adjoining cellars must be examined promptly to check for extension via partitions or ceilings.

Ventilation of the store must be rapid and complete to enable the lines to advance.

The practice of opening up directly over the main area of involvement may not always be practical for cellar fires. Conditions may require cutting holes in the floor near windows or under skylights.

- Electric smoke ejectors can be of value in cellar ventilation, particularly where openings are limited.
- Smoke ejectors can be placed over holes cut in floors or hung in openings remote from the entrance through which the line is advancing.
- Extension of a cellar fire to the cockloft via partitions, pipe recesses, and ducts must be checked for early and often.
- Truck company personnel must work into the cellar along with the engine companies to move stock, force doors and search as the fire is being extinguished.
- When sending members into cellars to shut down utilities, two mask equipped members shall be dispatched as a team.

Assignments:

First due:

Interior Team:

- To the store occupancy above the fire. Forcible entry as required at store entrance and cellar entrance.
- Search the store for occupants and remove.
- Ventilate the store as necessary. Take out the store windows if required. Ventilate rear from interior where possible.
- Necessary opening of partitions, ceilings and ducts.
- Cut the floor for required ventilation and operation of cellar pipes, distributors, bent tips or high expansion foam.
- Shut down utilities.
- Work in with engine companies to perform search and forcible entry and remove obstructions that prevent the engine companies from advancing.

Roof Firefighter:

- Place and raise portable ladder to the roof.
- Provide necessary roof ventilation of scuttles, skylights, etc.
- Monitor the roof, unless otherwise directed.

Outside Vent Firefighter (OV):

- Check the rear and sides of the building for access.
- Provide ventilation at the rear for the cellar and store above the fire.
- If access in the rear is available, attempt entry when teamed with the 2nd due truck OV (or another available member).
 - Notify the company officer, and conduct searches with particular attention given to the first floor rear.

Driver:

- The primary position of the 1st arriving tower ladder is in front of the fire building /occupancy.

Note: Placement of additional tower ladders can be on the long side of the building as needed. If the taxpayer faces on two streets and the front of the building is covered by tower ladder(s), then place the additional tower ladder(s) to cover the other street front. Tower ladders should be positioned so that the fire can be cut off and driven back to the point of origin.

- Join the forcible entry team, if not directed otherwise.

Second due:

Interior Team:

- To adjacent stores and cellar entrances.
- Search stores.
- Ventilate.
- Check for fire extension. Open up floors, ceilings, and partitions.
- Cut floors where necessary for operation of cellar pipes, distributors and bent tips.

Roof Firefighter:

- Place a second portable ladder to the roof.
- Bring saw to the roof if not required elsewhere and roof requires further opening.
- If services are not required on roof, perform as directed.

Outside Vent Firefighter (OV):

- Team up with 1st due Truck Company OV

Chauffeur:

- Position the ladder if one is not already positioned.
- Join the forcible entry team, if not directed otherwise.

Additional truck companies:

- Perform necessary forcible entry.
- Provide additional ventilation.
- Pull ceilings and open partitions.
- Cut open floors and roof.
- Make secondary search.