

VIRTUA FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

STRUCTURAL FIRE OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures to support effective structural firefighting operations.

PROCEDURE

1. Arrival and 360

The Incident Commander will perform a 360 upon arrival.

2. Engine Company Functions

- A. Search, rescue, and treatment.
- B. Stretch and pump hose lines (utilize water supply to best advantage).
- C. Two-Out or RIT.

3. Truck Company Functions

- A. Truck teams may be divided for general fireground functions. Each team has pre-determined tasks unless otherwise dictated by the Incident Commander.
- B. It should be understood that the assignment to 'truck operations' is the normal practice on the bulk of residential incidents; however, at the discretion of the Incident Commander, the truck company could get reassigned to any function that the Incident Commander may deem more important at the time.
- C. In the absence of a truck company, these functions may be assigned to an engine company.

4. Tactical Priorities – Primary

Objective	Benchmark Communicated To IC
Rescue	Primary search complete
Fire control	Under control
Loss control	Loss stopped

5. Tactical Priorities – Rescue

- A. Consider
 - i. The number, location, and condition of the victims.
 - ii. The effect the fire has on the victims.
 - iii. The ability of the available resources to enter the building, remove/protect victims, and control the fire.
- B. Conduct a primary and secondary search in all involved and exposed occupancies.
- C. The completion of the primary search will be reported to the Incident Commander utilizing the term 'primary search complete'.
- D. The completion of the secondary search will be reported to the Incident Commander utilizing the term 'secondary search complete'. The Incident Commander will communicate the 'all clear' benchmark to dispatch.

6. Tactical Priorities – Fire Control

- A. Stabilize fire conditions whenever possible through the use of a well-placed interior fire attack.
- B. A critical command decision, both initial and on-going, relates to the offensive/defensive mode of the situation
 - i. Offensive Mode – Interior attack and related support quickly bringing the fire under control.
 - ii. Defensive Mode – Exterior attack directed to first reduce fire extension and then bring the fire under control.

Incident Command will communicate the mode of operation to all personnel on the fireground.

- C. Initial attack efforts should be directed toward supporting the primary search.
 - D. If the structure is deemed lost, or the fire is beyond the control of the immediate available resources, implement a defensive fire attack strategy.
 - E. Anytime Incident Command changes the mode of operation it will be communicated to all personnel on-scene.
 - F. If the fire attack strategy has been changed from offensive to defensive, Incident Command will account for the safety of all personnel by conducting a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
 - G. The completion of bringing the fire under control is reported utilizing the standard radio reporting term, 'fire under control.'
- ## 7. Tactical Priorities - Loss Control

When basic fire control has been achieved, the Incident Commander should direct companies into 'loss stopped' activities and should communicate 'loss stopped' to dispatch.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Risk/Benefit Value Statement

- Within a structured plan, we may risk our lives to protect savable lives.
- Within a structured plan, we may risk our lives to protect savable property.
- We will NOT risk our lives at all to save lives or property that is already lost.