

Enclosed Structure Standard Operating Guideline (Model)

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Purpose and Background

This Enclosed Structure Standard Operating Guideline may be used for the purpose of preventing Firefighter Disorientation and fatalities. It is based on 8 years of research and analysis of line-of-duty deaths occurring in enclosed structure fires and the optimum way to prevent them. The Guideline is flexible and utilized exclusively during the course of extremely dangerous enclosed structure fires. Enclosed structures have been identified as the type of structures responsible for the loss of countless firefighters in the past. Although the goal of the Guideline is ultimately to prevent firefighter fatalities while attempting to extinguish enclosed structure fires, the means by which each department accomplishes this will depend on the level of available resources. All nationally recognized safety standards and sound firefighting principles and procedures including use of the Incident Command System are presumed to be used during Guideline implementation

Circumstances When Used

The Guideline is executed when firefighters encounter an enclosed structure measuring approximately 100'X100' or greater in size, light, moderate or heavy but tenable smoke is showing on arrival, the location of the seat of the fire is unknown and there is no life hazard present. In addition, for firefighter safety and task predictability, the Guideline is carried out in the sequence of company or resource arrival. In addition, departments may execute hose evolutions customarily utilized to deploy hand lines and to establish a continuous supply of water.

Emergency Response and Checklist

The response used for the execution of this Guideline, which may be modified by any department, will consist of: 4-engines, 2-trucks, 1-command officer, 1-safety officer and 1- emergency medical unit. *The Enclosed Structure Standard Operating Guideline Checklist* describes the tasks required of each arriving company to contribute to the effective and safe management of an enclosed structure fire. Clear firefighter understanding of the Guideline, sound officer judgment and strong command as always, will be key components to achieving a safe and successful operation.

Enclosed Structure Standard Operating Guideline Checklist

This guideline is used for enclosed structure fires measuring 100'X100' or greater in size. It is implemented when smoke is showing on arrival, the seat of the fire is unknown and there is no life hazard present. For safety and task predictability, it is executed in the sequence of company arrival.

1. First arriving officer – Identifies the enclosed structure

- A. Identifies the building as an enclosed structure during the initial size up
- B. Considers the need for a primary search
- C. Describes the structure's size, occupancy and conditions in the initial report
- D. Implements the Enclosed Structure Guideline
- E. Determines the location of the fire from the owner or tenant when possible

2. First arriving engine company – Performs a Cautious Interior Assessment

- A. Firefighter with TIC conducts a 360 degree walk around to locate enclosed windows or doors and to identify the presence of a basement
- B. Selects and parks the apparatus next to the point of entry
- C. Lays and charges a hand line
- D. Crew positions next to the point of entry with a thermal imaging camera
- E. Conducts a Cautious Interior Assessment as described below:

*After the required companies are in position at the point of entry and the supply line charged, the first company conducts a Cautious Interior Assessment working within the limitations of the TIC. The distance the company may advance will depend on the size of the structure and conditions encountered but in all cases kept to a minimum. When the seat of the fire is located, the officer will decide based on the possible size of the contents fire, interior arrangement, structural integrity and distance to the fire, if: **An Interior Attack** is initiated from the original point of entry, **a Short Interior Attack** from a different side of the structure will be made, or if **a Defensive Attack** will be conducted. Command will be advised for approval of the attack intended to be implemented. If an interior attack is initiated, all remaining companies will reinforce the attack from the same direction as required and coordinated by Command.*

3. Second arriving engine company – Serves as Back-Up Company

- A. Parks next to and connects in tandem with the first engine at the scene
- B. Lays and charges a second hand line
- C. Crew positions with a hand line and thermal imaging camera next to the point of entry
- D. Monitors radio transmissions between the first engine officer and Command
- E. Re-oriens, rescues or backs up the first engine company as needed

- 4. Third arriving engine company – Serves as Supply/ Back-up Company**
 - A. Establishes a water supply for engine 1 (& 2 operating in tandem)
 - B. Lays and charges a third hand line from engine 1
 - C. Crew positions with a hand line and thermal imaging camera next to the point of entry

- 5. Fourth arriving engine company – Serves as Back-up/ Flexible Company**
 - A. Engine and driver stages on a nearby available hydrant as remaining crew reports to the point of entry
 - B. Lays and charges a fourth hand line from engine 2
 - C. Crew positions with a hand line and thermal imaging camera next to the point of entry
 - D. Monitors radio transmissions between first engine officer and command
 - E. When ordered by command, will obtain their own water supply by laying a supply line to a designated side of the structure to set up as an attack engine from which a short interior attack will be initiated

- 6. Truck Company 1 and 2 – Serve as RIT at original or secondary point of entry. Provides utility control, coordinated ventilation and forcible entry**
 - A. Crew positions with tools and TIC next to the point of entry to serve as RIT
 - B. When needed for inspection of ceiling space, will pop suspended ceiling tiles using a ground ladder and by use of a TIC will look for and report the presence of trusses, unprotected steel or fire
 - C. Closely coordinates ventilation efforts with Command to avoid causing a flashover or back draft
 - D. Opens windows or doors as directed by command
 - E. Cuts and removes security bars, plywood, sheet rock, or other enclosing material as directed by command to provide access or means of emergency egress
 - F. Creates large breaches in exterior or interior adjoining walls as directed by Command. When possible and to avoid obstructions in the structure, will contact the building manager, supervisor or an employee to learn of the most advantageous location to breach the wall.