DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

S.0.G.: FO-17
Effective: 02-04-2013
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Reviewed: 10-23-2018

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Fire Chief Signature **DATE**

Title: Truck Operations at Working Structure Fires

Scope: All personnel

Reference: Truck Company Operations 2nd ed.
Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics 3rd ed.

Procedure:

Truck company functions should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ventilation (natural or forced) achieved horizontally or vertically. Horizontal ventilation is normally achieved through the use of natural openings, such as windows and doors. Vertical ventilation involves opening the structure above the fire by means of natural openings skylights or attic vents or the creation of an opening (cutting a hole and pushing ceiling).
- Entry (forcible or otherwise) can be made through doors or windows. When forcible entry is required, efforts should be made to minimize damage by using the proper tools to quickly gain access.
- Search and rescue falls into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary search is a time sensitive process that must be completed in an efficient manner. Secondary search is a thorough process which should be completed after the fire is under control and performed by a crew other than those that were involved in the primary.
- Laddering (ground and aerial) is an important function when working on upper floors for establishing means of entry and egress.
- Utility control (electric, gas, water) is normally completed by the outside crew, which provides an element of safety for interior crews.
- Elevated master streams provide a tactical advantage for applying water from above. When an elevated master stream is requested, it will be the responsibility of the truck company to establish and operate.
- Overhaul is the process of checking for extension and removing any hazards. Salvage operations can be used to protect or save property.

Ventilation/Roof Operations

Safety must be the primary consideration during every vertical ventilation operation. No personnel shall be allowed on bowstring truss, lightweight metal or tile/slate roofs under fire conditions. Operating above a fire is an extremely hazardous situation. Understanding this policy and practicing it shall help to ensure our firefighters' safety during vertical ventilation operations.

The first arriving company and the Incident Commander should evaluate roof conditions prior to committing resources to the roof. Aerial apparatus should be strategically placed to allow for safe access to and from the roof area. Crews must enter the roof from an established safe area and must have a secondary means of escape. The first personnel to access the roof must quickly evaluate conditions to assure the roof is structurally sound before proceeding. While on the roof, personnel must continually evaluate their escape routes and progress throughout the duration of roof operations.

Bow string truss roofs – **During fire operations, no firefighter shall operate on a bow string truss roof.**

Tile/slate roofs – **During fire operations, no firefighter shall operate on a tile/slate roof.**

Lightweight metal roofs **- During fire operations, no firefighter shall operate on a lightweight metal roof.**

When these roof types/coverings are encountered, vertical ventilation shall only be achieved by working from an aerial ladder.

Extreme caution should be exercised in conducting roof operations on lightweight wood truss (Type V) roofs and lightweight steel truss roofs with metal decking. When these roof types are encountered and vertical ventilation is deemed necessary, crews should utilize natural openings and immediately vacate the roof.

Roof operations should always take place utilizing minimal personnel and from as stable a working platform as possible. This includes the use of safety lines, roof ladders, or aerial devices.

The physical placement of apparatus on the fire ground is critical. No more critical placement is made than that of the first arriving truck company. All responding units must consider the placement of the truck (in front of the structure on residential and in the best tactical position for commercial) as a top priority.

All personnel involved in roof operations shall wear full personal protective equipment including SCBA when operating above a fire. Personnel working/operating from an aerial device will wear ladder belts at all times.

Utility Control

Depending upon the type of occupancy, utilities control can be accomplished by one of the following methods:

- Pulling the electrical meter (should be taken to command)
- Individual breakers
- Electrical main/disconnect
- Shunt trips
- Closing control valve on gas meter or LP tank

Dalton Utilities should be notified by the Incident Commander via dispatch.

Truck Company Responsibilities for Residential and Commercial Fires

Inside/Interior Truck

- Primary functions: forcible entry, primary search/rescue, and locating/isolating the fire
- Secondary functions: salvage & overhaul

Outside/Exterior Truck

- Primary functions: utilities, force rear door/windows, ground ladders placement, ventilation (horizontal and/or vertical dictated by conditions/needs/roof construction), vent enter isolate search (VEIS), aerial ladder operations, and roof rescue
- Secondary functions: secondary search, salvage, and overhaul

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