

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		15.002
	Subject: High Rise Operations		
	Section: Fire Operations		
	Date Authorized: 12/1/2019	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed:	Chief Daniel Fuller		

Intent

The purpose of this document is to identify key strategic and tactical objectives for fire department operations in high rise buildings, to include: initial and ongoing size up, risk management profiles, assessment of occupant location and removal, and effective sectorization within the building.

References

USFA-TR-082 Special Report: Operational Considerations for High Rise Firefighting

Definitions

High Rise – any building more than 75 feet in height or greater

Guidelines

1. **Building Size Up** – when sizing up a large high-rise building, the height, size and tight construction of high rise buildings can conceal fire and smoke from observation. Both internal and external size-ups should be completed as a two-step process
 - a. Exterior view
 - i. Overall height
 - ii. Exterior conditions
 - iii. Potential for falling debris
 - iv. Potential for structural collapse
 - b. Interior view
 - i. Elevator Status (recalled or operational)
 - ii. Evacuation of occupants
 - iii. Number of and status of stairwells
 1. Conditions within the stairwells
 2. Labeling of stairwells
 - iv. Accounts of evacuees from the fire floor and surrounding floors
 - v. How many floors and possibly trapped victims are above the fire

2. **Risk Management Assessment** – several aspects of risk management apply to unique high-rise incidents.
 - a. Occupancy of building and specifically fire floors
 - b. Suspected cause of the incident
 - c. Known integrity of the structure
 - i. Can fire and rescue operations continue
 - ii. Will further operations cause the building to be structurally compromised
 - d. Known location and extension of fire conditions

3. **Tactical Objectives** – since high-rise building fires are so unique that residential and commercial fire tactics are not applicable to high-rise fires, and the use of tactics suited

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for other fires are not indicated for high-rise fires. The following is a checklist of high-rise tactical objectives.

- a. Rescue of occupants
 - i. Elevator use is allowed up to two floors below the fire, for staging and movement of equipment and personnel
 - ii. Elevator use for rescue from two floors below the fire is prohibited
 - iii. At least one stairwell should be declared as a rescue/evaluation stairwell
 - iv. Search crews should search floors in the following priority
 - 1. Fire floor
 - 2. Floor above the fire
 - 3. Roof/top floor
 - 4. Each floor down to the fire floor
 - v. Victims should be directed to areas of safe haven while awaiting rescue
 - vi. Victims who might be able to self-evacuate should be directed to the evacuation stairwell and down to lower floors
 - vii. Consider shelter in place if conditions allow
 - viii. Establish an evacuation plan for the remainder of the building

- b. Fire attack
 - i. Assess fire and smoke conditions
 - 1. Size of the fire
 - 2. Resources available for fire attack
 - 3. Resources to be brought the floor for fire attack
 - 4. Overall elapsed time to setup for fire attack
 - ii. At least one stairwell should be declared as a fire attack stairwell, with no evacuation foot traffic, and it should have rooftop access if possible
 - iii. Standpipe connections should be made two floors below the fire in the fire-rescue stairwell
 - iv. Manage the spread of smoke and heat throughout the building using building systems such as:
 - 1. Sprinklers
 - 2. Standpipes
 - 3. Fire Pump
 - 4. HVAC Systems
 - 5. Portable fans
 - 6. Natural ventilation

4. Deployment of resources to achieve the tactical objectives should be systematic by arriving unit type and order of arrival

- a. First arriving unit should proceed to the lobby and gain access to the Fire Control Room or Alarm Panel

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- i. One firefighter should remain at the control room or panel and establish Buildings System Sector
 - ii. Other firefighters from first arriving unit should conduct a lobby level size up for situational awareness – report findings to incoming Battalion Chief
 - iii. After size-up, firefighters should prepare for high rise operations and report to the staging area with their equipment
- b. Second arriving unit should establish water supply
- i. Connect to the FDC
 - ii. The engineer should stay with the FDC
 - iii. All other firefighters should prepare for high rise operations and report to the staging area with their equipment
- c. First arriving Battalion Chief should establish Incident Command
- i. Assign Interior Staging Sector
 - ii. Assign the second arriving Battalion Chief to Lobby Control Sector
 - iii. Assign Fire Floor Sector
 - iv. Assign Search Sector
 - v. Assign Ventilation Sector
 - vi. Verify Building Systems Sector in place
 - vii. Assign Safety Officer
 - viii. Assign Accountability Officer, locate with Lobby Control Sector
 - ix. Assign Exterior Staging Sector
 - x. Assign Medical Sector
 - xi. Assign Rehab Sector

5. Other Considerations

- a. Staging and Equipment Pool
 - i. Identify an area free from contamination, at least two floors below the fire for an equipment pool area
 - ii. Begin to stage air bottles, spare SCBAs, high rise packs, 2 ½ supply hose, hand tools, batteries and power tools at this location
- b. All operations within high-rise buildings should be tied to areas of safe refuge and these areas should be made known to all companies working above the Lobby Control Sector
- c. Clean environments should be identified for rehab and changing air bottles
- d. Ensure use of air monitoring equipment in these area and stairwells
- e. Communications maybe hindered due to building size and construction. Utilize alternative channels, repeaters, etc

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