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Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.:	**KP-2-0017**
SOG TITLE:	**MID-RISE & HIGH-RISE FIREFIGHTING**
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I. PURPOSE:

To provide operational guidelines for personnel while operating at mid rise and high rise fires. Terminology and Command Functions are identified to give an organizational reference for managing any incident.

The Incident Commander will have sole responsibility to activate/deactivate any of the roles identified in this operational guideline.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES:

Due to the complexities and challenges in combating high rise fires, responders must anticipate the potential for a greater than normal resource commitment and request assistance early in the incident.

Additional officers may be required to fill the numerous roles necessary to manage such an incident. Due to the potential length of a high rise operation, the incident commander must also anticipate the need for timely relief of those in command positions as well as firefighters actively engaged in the operation.

Fire Company priorities shall be:

Life
Exposures
Extinguishment

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. COMMAND POST: An Incident Command Post (ICP) will be established at the scene of all high rise building emergencies. The preferred location of the ICP is in the building's lobby. The Incident Commander will establish command from this location and overall fireground operation will be coordinated from this location. If the emergency is in close proximity to the lobby, (e.g. basement or ground floor) consideration should be given to establishing the ICP on the exterior of the building, approximately 200' from the building.

B. OPERATIONS COMMAND POST: Will be established one or more floors below the fire floor, depending on conditions. Elevated levels of carbon monoxide or reverse stack effect may require moving OCP lower than floor below fire floor. This area will serve as a central location from which coordination and tactical decisions will emanate for controlling the event. Firefighting operations, ventilation, search and rescue operations on upper floors will be coordinated from this location

C. LOBBY CONTROL OFFICER: Designated by the Incident Commander. Officer will establish lobby control to assist the Incident Commander and manage the activities in the lobby area.

D. LOBBY CONTROL COMPANY: Company designated by the Incident commander to assist the Lobby Control Officer in completing assigned tasks.

E. BASE: Exterior staging area for parking apparatus and stockpiling of

equipment. Site can be pre-designated as part of the Pre-Plan. Consideration should be given to the proximity of the building, ability to move apparatus if needed and safety/security of apparatus. Empty parking lots, large streets and school yards out of the collapse zone and remote from flying glass are ideal locations.

F. **BASE MANAGER:** Individual assigned to and responsible for tracking resources staged at the base. Manager may need to request police/fire police to ensure security of apparatus and equipment.

G. **STAGING:** Located one floor below the Operations Command Post. This is location where personnel and equipment are readied for deployment onto the fire floor or to floors above the fire floor. Staging will comprise both Logistical Support (firefighting equipment, SCBA and standby personnel) as well as Medical Support. (First Aid Station)

H. **MEDICAL SUPPORT:** First Aid Station and Rehab area will be designated/ established by the first-arriving emergency medical personnel. First Aid Station should be one floor below the Operations Command Post.

I. **REST/RECUPERATION: (R&R)** Should be established one floor below staging. This area is intended for firefighters to rest and receive medical assessment from EMS personnel. This area should not be considered an extension of staging since personnel may require extended recuperation and would not be quickly available for additional firefighting duties.

J. **SAFETY OFFICER:** An Interior Safety Officer will be designated by the Incident Commander. The Safety Officer will be responsible for firefighter accountability in addition to fireground safety procedures. Additional Safety Officers may be required due to the scope of the operation.

K. **STAIRWELL SUPPORT**: Firefighters utilized to move equipment in the building. This function will report to the Lobby Control Officer.

L. **EXTERIOR OBSERVATION OFFICER:** Considered an Exterior Safety Officer. Can be used by I.C. to monitor and report on exterior fire conditions, wind conditions, smoke conditions and exposure problems. Will perform duties of Exterior Safety Officer and coordinate with police officials in establishing a safety perimeter.

M. **SCRIBE: (ASSISTANT to I.C.)** Individual selected to assist the incident commander in tracking resources and assignments.

N. **RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM: (RIT)** Trained team available to initiate search/rescue operation for injured, lost or downed firefighters. ***Multiple teams may be needed and assigned to each stairwell on the floor below the fire floor.***

O. **LOGISTICS OFFICER:** Member of the Command Staff who is responsible for supervising the Logistics section. Logistics provides services and support to all organizational components involved in the incident. (Includes facilities, supplies, equipment maintenance, scba management, fueling and feeding.)

P. **PLANNING OFFICER:** Member of the Command Staff who is responsible for gathering, assimilating, analyzing and processing information for effective decision making.

IV. RESPONSIBILITES:

A. FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE/QUINT WILL:

1. Give size up report to dispatch.
2. Gather master keys from Knox box. (if necessary)
3. Proceed to annunciator panel and check status.
4. Ascertain conditions and convey to dispatch.
5. Proceed to fire floor via stairwell with appropriate tools.
6. Be designated as "Fire Attack" Team Leader and initiate suppression.

7. Communicate fire location and conditions, as well as life hazard.
8. Maintain team continuity and firefighter safety.

B. SECOND ARRIVING ENGINE/QUINT WILL:

1. Establish water supply to standpipe system.
2. Proceed to fire floor via interior stairwell.
3. Report to "Fire Attack" Officer on the fire floor and provide support.

C. FIRST ARRIVING LADDER WILL:

1. Position apparatus for rescue or ventilation if needed.

Note: The First in Aerial Unit will report to the front of the building and await orders from the Officer in Charge.

2. Crew reports to "Fire Attack" officer on fire floor.
3. May be needed for search and rescue on fire floor or floors above.

D. FIRST ARRIVING CHIEF WILL:

1. Report to the lobby, receive situational report.
2. Establish formal command in lobby. (Incident Command)
3. Assign Operations Officer to take charge of the Operations Command Post. (Radio designation is "Operations.")
4. Assign Lobby Control Officer and Lobby Control Company
5. Select scribe to assist in operations of command post. (Additional personnel may be needed depending on the scope of the operation.)
6. Designate location of base and assign Base Manager.
7. Designate Safety Officer
8. Identify E.M.S. Officer and establish E.M.S. group.
9. Ensure R.I.T. reports to the Operations Officer at the Operations Command Post.

10. If needed, establish exterior observation officer to monitor outside conditions. (E.g. wind condition, smoke condition, fire status, exposure problems, etc.)

E. OPERATIONS OFFICER WILL:

1. Be assigned by the Incident Commander.
2. Take command of the Operations Command Post. (OCP)
3. Coordinate fire attack, search and rescue operations on the fire floor and the floors above.

F. LOBBY CONTROL OFFICER WILL:

1. Gather building pre-plan information, elevator keys, master keys, window keys, and evacuation plans for the building.
2. Have building manager and building engineer report to the lobby command post.
3. Identify location of disabled building occupants.
4. Control firefighters and civilians from entering and exiting the building.
5. Ascertain status of H.V.A.C. system, utilities, fire pumps and other mechanical systems.
6. Account for all elevators. Assess whether elevators can safely be used to transport firefighters and/or equipment to the upper floors.
7. Take responsibility for stairwell pressurization operation.
8. Request additional personnel for Lobby Control functions if needed.

G. ADDITIONAL ARRIVING UNITS WILL:

1. Respond to Base and report to Base Manager.
2. Standby at Base and await further orders.

V. PRE-PLANNING

Identifying specific building and fire protection features, and assessing their impact on the fireground operation is a necessity. At a minimum, VBI forms should include information about the following features:

- Fire pump, standpipe and sprinkler systems
- HVAC features and controls
- Elevator configuration
- Location of Firefighter Emergency Service elevator key
- Location and number of stairwells
- Building occupancy/evacuation plan
- Communications equipment

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Companies will operate on appropriate fireground frequency. Companies will not communicate to county communications center directly unless there is an emergency and no response is being received from personnel on the fireground. ***Additional resources will only be requested by the incident commander.***

B. Communications will be maintained at all times between operating units and sector/group supervisor. Communications must also be maintained between the Incident Commander and Montgomery County Dispatch Center.

C. Knowledge of building's communications equipment is critical. This can include the following equipment: Firefighter phones, building intercom systems, public address system, hard-wired telephones, cellular telephones and elevator phones/intercoms.

VII. ELEVATORS

A. The location and status of all elevators must be determined early in the operation because of the possibility of trapped occupants in stalled cars.

B. The Firefighter Emergency Service Key should be obtained and utilized to control the cars. According to generally accepted safety procedures in

high rise buildings, ***firefighters should not use elevators if the location of the fire is below the 7th floor.***

C. When determined it is safe to use elevators to move equipment and/or personnel to upper floors, a firefighter should be assigned to operate the car so that the car can be returned to the ground floor for future use. Each firefighter should have a portable radio and be versed on the usage of the elevator phone so as to maintain communication.

D. Standard safety precautions relative to elevator operations should be followed.

VIII. TRAINING

A. Ongoing basic training evolutions, as well as table-top exercises for the command structure, are essential to being prepared to handle high rise emergencies.

B. Recognition on how building construction features, fire protection systems and weather conditions will impact the operation must be studied and recognized by the command structure.

IX SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A. Once a Firefighter has used up two air bottles he/she must report to the Rehabilitation Area and remain there until released by the Officer in charge of Rehabilitation.

B. In the case of mass evacuations, the Red Cross Response Team shall be notified and they shall be in charge of arranging to care for those people displaced from the building.

C. Multiple EMS units shall be placed on scene (per EMS command) in the event of a working high-rise fire. One EMS unit will be designated for firefighter use only.

D. The second and third alarm will be dispatched as appropriate by the Officer in Charge.