

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Engine Company Operations in Commercial Buildings

Standard Operating Guideline

General:

- A fire in a commercial building is usually a fast-spreading and difficult fire to control and extinguish. It calls for many handlines stretched quickly to the proper locations to prevent a large loss.
- If heavy or medium fire conditions are encountered the initial lines should be 2-1/2 inch. These lines can later be used to supply distributors, cellar pipes and heavy stream appliances.
- If the striking power and the water capability of 2-1/2 inch hose lines are not required, after the initial attack, they can be reduced to 1-3/4 inch lines for subsequent operations.
- Supplying a sprinkler system, if available, is to be given a high priority after the establishment of the initial line.
- When compatible with fire conditions, 1-3/4 inch lines may be used in exposures.
- If difficulty is encountered in gaining entrance to a commercial building fire, a small hole made in the security doors and/or removal of the window may provide an opening for hose stream operations.
- Consideration should also be given to using cellar pipes or distributors from the roof or floor above into the fire area. Protection lines must be provided for the members operating these devices.
- For a fire that is traveling rapidly along a row of stores it may be best to skip stores and stretch lines into alternate stores ahead of the fire. The by-passed stores will be covered by subsequent lines.
- In many cases where entry is delayed or where the pulling of ceilings is impossible due to fire conditions or ceiling construction, a hose line or lines operated properly into a trench cut may confine the fire. Before these lines are operated all members in the stores must be withdrawn. As soon as interior operations can be resumed these lines must be shut down before entry into the area below. Small holes should be made in the ceiling to check for accumulations of water above the ceiling before interior operations are commenced.

First Floor Fires:

- **First due engine:**
 - Stretch the first line into the occupancy to extinguish the fire and protect any interior stairwell.
 - In a building protected by a sprinkler system, and if manpower and conditions permit, a second line shall be stretched to feed this system.
- **Second due engine:**
 - Assist first engine with the initial line.
 - Supply sprinkler system if first engine was unable to do so.
 - Serve as a backup or protection line for the first engine company.
- **Third due engine:**
 - If second engine is assisting with first line, stretch a second line.
 - Serve as a backup or protection line for the first engine company.
 - Stretch up to upper floor to extinguish any fire that may extend to upper areas.
- **Additional engine companies** may be used to stretch and operate lines to:
 - Cover any additional stores where needed.
 - Reinforce lines already in operation.
 - Supply heavy caliber stream appliance.
 - Stretch precautionary lines to the roof.

Attic and Cockloft Fires:

- **First due engine:**
 - Stretch the first line into the involved store to protect life and extinguish the fire.
 - In a building protected by a sprinkler system, if manpower and conditions permit, a second line shall be stretched to feed this system.
 - Stretch a hand line into any seriously exposed building occupancy/building, depending on life hazard and the location and severity of the fire.
 - If exposures are not an immediate problem, then the first line should be stretched into the store under the main body of fire and operated to extinguish the fire.
- **Second due engine:**
 - Assist first engine with initial line.
 - If fire has control of the cockloft, and the need for exposure is critical, assist first engine with initial line.

- If manpower and conditions permit, stretch a line into another seriously exposed building/occupancy and operate into the cockloft to confine and extinguish the fire.
- It may be advisable to skip stores in order to confine and extinguish the fire.
- **Third due engine:**
 - Insure sprinkler system is supplied.
 - Stretch a line and operate as ordered by the Incident Commander.
- **Additional engine companies** may be used to stretch and operate lines to:
 - Cover any additional stores where needed.
 - Reinforce lines already in operation.
 - Supply heavy caliber stream appliance.

Cellar Fires:

- **First due engine:**
 - Stretch the first line into the occupancy above the fire to prevent vertical extension.
 - In a building protected by a sprinkler system, and if manpower and conditions permit, a second line shall be stretched to feed this system.
- **Second due engine:**
 - Supply sprinkler system if first engine was unable to do so.
 - Assist first engine with the initial line.
 - If manpower and conditions permit, stretch a line that may be used for any of the following:
 - To control the first floor if the first engine company has advanced into the cellar via the interior cellar entrance.
 - Serve as a backup or protection line for the first engine company.
 - Stretch into the cellar via the interior stairs or the outside entrance if the first unit's line has to control the first floor.
 - To employ the use of cellar pipes or distributors over the fire.
- **Third due engine:**
 - If second engine is assisting with first line, stretch a second line which may be used for any of the following:
 - To control the first floor if the first engine company has advanced into the cellar via the interior cellar entrance.
 - Serve as a backup or protection line for the first engine company.
 - Stretch into the cellar via the interior stairs or the outside entrance if the first unit's line has to control the first floor.
 - To employ the use of cellar pipes or distributors over the fire.

- **Additional engine companies** may be used to stretch and operate lines to:
 - Cover any additional stores where needed.
 - Supply distributors or cellar pipes.
 - Reinforce lines already in operation.
 - Supply heavy caliber stream appliance.
 - Stretch precautionary lines to the roof.