

# **POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **Engine Company Operations in Multiple Family Dwellings**

### **Standard Operating Guideline**

#### **General:**

- In most cases the first line is stretched via the interior stairs to the location of the fire. The purpose of this line is to protect the primary means of egress for occupants evacuating the building and to confine and extinguish the fire. A second line should be promptly stretched into the interior of the building. If the entrance door to the building is self-closing and equipped with a locking device the first member entering the building should use a chock, rug or other means of preventing the door from locking and thereby delaying other members trying to enter the building.
- The second engine company to arrive may assist in stretching the first line. They must remain together as a unit and relieve the first engine company as required.
- Getting the first line in position and in operation is of vital importance.
- Engine companies other than the first to arrive shall take tentative positions at hydrants and test those hydrants to make sure they will have water if needed.
- If two or more apartments are involved in fire with lines being used in each apartment, companies should be aware of the possibility of fire getting behind them through the ceiling space if the line in the adjacent apartment is not advancing as rapidly as theirs.
- Do not clutter up the interior stairs. After two lines have been stretched up a stairway, additional lines should be stretched via fire escapes or windows, making use of ropes to pull up hose lines.
- Aerial ladders should not be tied up by stretching lines up them. These ladders may be needed for egress from the upper floors or roof, or for use of their heavy caliber streams.
- Hose lines should not be operated into ventilation holes from the roof as this decreases ventilation and nullifies the action of lines operating on the top floor. A roof line should be used only to prevent fire from extending past a trench cut, to protect exposures, or to extinguish fire that cannot be reached from below, such as fire in a cornice.

## Stretching of hoselines:

- **First Line:**
  - The first line stretched for a fire in a multiple dwelling should be stretched by way of the interior stairs.
  - The primary purpose of this line is to safeguard the stairway so that it can be used by the escaping occupants.
  - The door to the fire apartment must not be opened while people are coming down the stairway from the floors above.
  - When the safety of the stairway is assured, this first line may be advanced to extinguish the fire.
  
- **Second Line:**
  - The second hoseline is also usually stretched by way of the interior stairs to the same floor as the first line.
  - It is meant to augment the first line, if necessary.
  - If not needed on the original fire floor it is then advanced to the floor above.
  
- **Third Line:**
  - An alternative route should be selected, if possible, for the third line in the building.

## Exposures:

- In some cases the second or third lines may be urgently needed in one of the exposures. The decision as to the location to which these lines shall be stretched rests with the officer in command and is based on his size-up of the fire situation.