

# POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

## General Truck Company Operations

### Standard Operating Guideline

#### General:

Life safety is the primary duty of truck companies. Truck members must be alert to life hazards in cellars, second floor occupancies, and in badly exposed buildings.

Truck company officers must quickly observe the types of occupancies present in order to evaluate the life hazard potential of the building.

Egress from second stories is often limited and panic conditions are possible. These buildings must be well laddered to provide:

- Roof access and egress.
- Second floor rescues.
- Escape routes for members searching the 2nd floor.

Many individual 2nd floor occupancies do not have a secondary means of egress. Heavy smoke in the second floor public hall may have trapped people in these occupancies. A thorough search must be made and all doors must be opened. Refuge may have been sought in such windowless areas as lavatories, store rooms, or closets.

Prompt ventilation at the roof is very important for the safety of the occupants and to enable search and rescue to be carried out.

Occupants may be trapped in the rear areas of stores, such as: stockrooms, walk in refrigerators (cold boxes), lavatories, offices, mezzanines and cellars. Windows from these rear areas may be barred, bricked over or covered with steel or wood for security reasons.

It is the responsibility of the first truck company to arrive to locate and identify the fire. There may be times when attending to the life hazard may prevent the carrying out of these assignments. At such times the second truck company will carry out the assignment.

The importance of communications between truck companies and the officer in command cannot be overemphasized. Information, conditions found and actions taken or contemplated must be continually fed back.

Control must be maintained by company officers so that communications continue regardless of the operating demands placed upon the unit.

Prompt laddering of the roof for access must be carried out to perform reconnaissance of the top, sides and rear of the building, as well as for roof ventilation. Roof access should normally not be attempted via the interior. Place several ladders to the roof to provide remote escape routes.

The roof position should relay information on the following to the officer in command:

- Size and shape of the building.
- Location and volume of fire or smoke.
- Exposures-sides and rear.
- Roof loading-signs, machinery, etc.
- Evidence of cockloft fire.
- Roof construction.
  - Presence (or absence) of extending parapets or evidence of fire walls.
  - Differences in levels of the roof.
  - Cornices - information on height, depth, opening into cockloft, etc.
  - False fronts extending over the roof.

Where a backdraft potential exists, roof ventilation **MUST** precede opening doors and other venting. Forcible entry must be coordinated with roof ventilation and line positioning.

Roof ventilation may be accomplished by removal of skylights and scuttle covers where they exist. The fascia or returns of these well-holes should be opened for examination of the cockloft.

Check for fire extension into the cockloft early and often.

When truck company personnel are used to force security gates and street doors, it may be preferable to have them continue down the row of stores, opening all that may reasonably be expected to be necessary, rather than to suffer delay later in getting truck members back from other duties.

When staffing is limited, it may be necessary to skip a few doors initially to more quickly determine fire extension.

The demands for truck company services at taxpayer fires are many. Engine companies can be pressed into service to perform truck work such as forcing a door, feeling partitions for heat and opening ceilings to get water into the cockloft ahead of a traveling fire.

At times, access to the rear is limited. Portable ladders can easily be pulled over the roof for access to the rear for ventilation or forcible entry. A tower ladder can be used for carrying portable ladders to the roof.

Tower ladders should be positioned in front of the building in preference to conventional aerials. This puts a heavy stream appliance in position if needed for the fire building or to protect exposures.

The basket of the tower ladder can be positioned a foot or two above the street level and the tower ladder stream can be directed into the store or stores. This allows a heavy stream to be moved into position quickly which can be readily moved from store to store.