

Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue - Standard Operating Guidelines

Category: Operations Draft: 05/31/09 Approved: 06/03/09	SOG 3.3 Title: Structure Fire Response
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3.3.1 The purpose of this guideline is to provide for the safety of all responding firefighters and the public; to provide a means for suppressing structure fires when they occur; and to establish guidelines so that all PAVFR members clearly understand their roles and responsibilities at the scene of a structure fire.

3.3.2 Safety

3.3.2.1 Safety is the most important aspect of all structure fire operations.

3.3.2.2 Structure fire operations should be accomplished at a reasonable pace which allows for operations to be completed in a safe and efficient manner.

3.3.2.3 When on scene, individual firefighters must recognize and observe his/her own limitations and communicate them to other teams, as appropriate.

3.3.3 Member response

3.3.3.1 All able PAVFR members are expected to respond when a structure fire occurs within the PAVFR district.

3.3.3.2 All Firefighter 1-certified members are expected to respond to the scene of a structure fire.

3.3.3.3 All other members shall report to their station to await direction from the Incident Commander (IC) or PA Dispatch.

3.3.3.4 Inability to respond is limited to a member being out of town, impaired or disabled, or at work.

3.3.4 Scene size up

3.3.4.1 The first member on scene will provide a size-up report to PA Dispatch.

3.3.4.2 The size up report will include the following:

- A. Type of structure
- B. Number of stories
- C. Possible occupants
- D. What is burning or smoking or the source of the smoke
- E. Resource needed
- F. Best access to the location
- G. Possible hazards or special concerns

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3.3.5 Incident Command

- 3.3.5.1 The first arriving senior officer, or most experienced member, shall assume Incident Command and report to PA Dispatch.
- 3.3.5.2 When IC is transferred, all units and PA Dispatch shall be informed and a briefing shall be provided to the new IC.
- 3.3.5.3 The Incident Commander (IC) shall provide the necessary coordination of all fire operation activities.
- 3.3.5.4 The IC shall communicate all instructions and vital information clearly to those who he/she is supervising.
- 3.3.5.5 The IC must constantly be aware of both fire and structural conditions which may deteriorate at a point which places fire fighters in jeopardy.
- 3.3.5.6 The IC shall monitor indications of a possible structural collapse and/or other life threatening occurrences and communicate such dangers to all personnel within the incident's perimeter and specify appropriate actions to be taken.

3.3.6 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- 3.3.6.1 Any member fighting the fire or providing support on the fire ground (within approx. 200 feet of fire) shall wear bunker gear, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) when appropriate.
- 3.3.6.2 All personnel shall wear wildland PPE, at a minimum, when on scene but not on the fire ground.
- 3.3.6.3 Personnel directing traffic shall also wear ANSI-2-compliant safety vests, in addition to the PPE specified above.

3.3.7 Tactical consideration priorities shall be as follows:

- A. Safety of all personnel
- B. Rescue of human occupants (and evacuation of livestock and pets, if this can be accomplished safely)
- C. Exposure protection
- D. Confinement
- E. Ventilation
- F. Extinguishment
- G. Overhaul
- H. Salvage

3.3.8 Interior attack

- 3.3.8.1 Any member performing interior structure attack/entry shall be certified as Firefighter 1.
- 3.3.8.2 No less than two firefighters shall enter a structure in order to perform initial attack on an interior structure fire.

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3.3.8.3 Those firefighters entering a structure shall remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times.

3.3.8.4 All firefighters engaged in interior attack shall use SCBA.

3.3.8.5 When two or more firefighters enter a structure where the atmosphere is Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health, there shall be at least two firefighters equipped with the proper PPE and SCBA stationed outside the structure and ready to enter in the event that those inside the structure require assistance. This “Two in, Two out” rule shall be followed at all times.

3.3.8.6 The two exterior firefighters are designated as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and are responsible for the health and safety of those inside the structure should assistance be required.

3.3.8.7 During normal operations, one member of the RIT is responsible for accountability of those inside the structure while the other member may be assigned additional duties providing that this individual is immediately available to make entry if necessary.

3.3.8.8 This policy shall not necessarily preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities prior to the assembly of a RIT.

3.3.9 Support roles

3.3.9.1 Those members not certified as Firefighter 1 can provide the following support services, if qualified and able:

- A. Hose handling
- B. Exposure protection
- C. WUI fire containment
- D. Water supply/shuttle
- E. Scene lighting
- F. EMS
- G. Rehab
- H. Traffic and crowd control
- I. Pump operation
- J. Tools and equipment support
- K. SCBA tank re-supply

3.3.9.2 Those members providing support services shall wear PPE as defined above.

3.3.10 Utility control

3.3.10.1 Utilities should be shut down and brought under control to insure that they will not contribute to the fire’s spread, overall damage, or create any type of safety hazard.

3.3.10.2 At structure fires where electrical involvement or damage has occurred, the IC shall request via radio the response of the proper electric company.

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- 3.3.10.3 If the electric company is not available in time, fire personnel may shutdown the power, if safely feasible.
- 3.3.10.4 If necessary and safely feasible, gas lines at the meter or propane tanks may be shut down. Propane tanks should also be protected from heat and the gas company notified.