

Buechel Fire Protection District

Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0005

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Title: **High-rise Operations**

Approval Date – 8-2-1994

Section	Instruction																
1.	<p>The purpose of this guideline is to identify the special problems encountered in high-rise building fires.</p> <p>DEFINITION: Any building where a fire may occur beyond the reach of portable equipment, necessitating the use of built-in protective systems. Fires in high-rise buildings will require, all needed hose, tools and equipment be brought to the fire area.</p> <p>As with all incidents, high-rise operations proceed according to predetermined tactical priorities. Life Hazard, the number one priority may be compounded in these occupancies. Sufficient manpower to address any rescue problems in addition to fire control efforts is essential.</p> <p><u>COMPANY OPERATIONS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The initial arriving units should be concerned with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Identifying the fire floor.2. Size-up conditions on fire floor and the floor above.3. Initiating evacuation of persons in immediate danger.4. Begin an attack on the fire floor.5. Ensure that engine company assigned to Siamese provides water supply for initial attack.b. The first unit on the scene is to proceed to the fire floor to investigate. It is their decision to use the stairwell or the elevator if under fire District control. If the elevator is used, get off two floors below the fire floor, then use the stairs.c. As companies enter the building, all needed tools and equipment must be brought into the building. Examples are: <table border="0" data-bbox="378 1604 1122 1892"><tr><td>ENGINE COMPANY:</td><td>TRUCK COMPANY:</td></tr><tr><td>SCBA</td><td>SCBA</td></tr><tr><td>Transceiver</td><td>Transceiver</td></tr><tr><td>Hand lights</td><td>Hand lights</td></tr><tr><td>Axe</td><td>High-rise pack</td></tr><tr><td>Pike pole</td><td>Forcible entry tools</td></tr><tr><td>High-rise pack</td><td>Rope</td></tr><tr><td>A frame ladder</td><td></td></tr></table>	ENGINE COMPANY:	TRUCK COMPANY:	SCBA	SCBA	Transceiver	Transceiver	Hand lights	Hand lights	Axe	High-rise pack	Pike pole	Forcible entry tools	High-rise pack	Rope	A frame ladder	
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	<p>d. Upon the report of a working fire, all companies unless otherwise ordered, will proceed to the floor below the fire floor to set up a resource area. The function of the resource area is to supply personnel, tools and equipment to the fire floor, as needed.</p> <p>e. If the elevators are not usable, or unsafe, a stairwell support system may be needed. Stairwell support consists of personnel spaced in the stairwell to relay necessary equipment from the ground floor to the resource area. This is best accomplished with a person every two or three floors. Personnel working stairwell support may remove SCBA and protective gear at their assigned floors, if conditions permit.</p> <p>2. <u>COMMAND FUNCTIONS:</u></p> <p>a. In any high-rise incident it is essential that a command post be established quickly. This command post should be located at the most strategic place to control the overall operations. The Fire-ground Commander will assign other Chief Officers duties as needed.</p> <p>3. <u>COMMAND PRIORITIES</u></p> <p>a. Assign a company to check the floor above the fire floor. Command must get a report on conditions above the fire as quickly as possible, indicating fire extension possibilities, smoke conditions, evacuation needs, and resource requirements.</p> <p>b. Establish lobby control. The first available Chief Officer to arrive should be assigned to establish lobby control. This area is responsible for: elevator control, stairway access, operation of alarm panels, communications system if available, system controls located at ground floor, and for the stockpiling and dispatching of equipment from the lobby to the resource area. The lobby control must be established early to control elevator and stairwell access. Command has the option to assign lobby control, and if no Chief Officer is available it may be delegated to a Company Officer.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Call for additional resources. Any working fire will quickly utilize all first alarm companies. Command must anticipate the need for additional personnel and equipment. Establishing a staging area may be necessary for all responding units and a Chief Officer needs to be assigned to command this sector.d. Set-up stairwell support if needed. Stairwell support must be put into operation quickly to support the initial attack companies with tools and equipment. Examples are: air bottles, extra hose, fans, portable generators, lights, and assorted tools.e. Establishing a resource area if not already in operation: The resource area should be established in a convenient location providing good access to the fire operations area. Two floors below the fire floor is the preferred location if possible. All reserve personnel should report here. All unused and reserve equipment will be located here. This area provides a supply of personnel and equipment to support the fire fighting operations.f. Establishing a rehabilitation area: The rehabilitation area will provide recuperation and medical attention for firefighters relieved from the fire floor. EMS teams with necessary equipment should be assigned to this area where they will be readily available if needed. The rehabilitation sector is most advantageous if placed on the floor below the resource areas, or two floors below the fire floor.g. Maintain control of stairwells: In high-rise operations at least one stairwell should be kept clear to provide access to, or escape from floors above the fire. This will require communications as to which stairwell is being used for firefighting and/or ventilation operations, and which stairwell is being kept clean for access above.h. Evacuation: The evacuation routes available to occupants of a high-rise building are normally limited to two stairways. The stairways are also the prime access route for firefighting forces to make an attack. Occupants in the immediate fire area should be

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	<p>evacuated as quickly as possible to safe areas below the fire floor. Further evacuation should be based on the risk to the occupants, since premature evacuation may hinder fire control efforts and adds to the general confusion at the scene. The determination of risk and the decision to evacuate should be made by personnel on the floor. All evacuations should be closely managed to avoid interference with operations as much as possible. It may be advantageous to separate this area of responsibility from firefighting and assign companies under an evacuation officer to accomplish this function. Other agencies such as the police may be used to good advantage in assisting with evacuations, especially in controlling evacuees in the lobby and preventing re-entry to the building.</p> <p>i. Other considerations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building Superintendent or Maintenance2. Utilities control; LG&E.3. Water Company4. Additional Police5. Elevator Company; restore service or assist in rescue from elevators.6. Mobile Cascade System7. J.C.P.D. Helicopter for roof evacuation