
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: Highrise Fires
Revised: 7-1-09
Effective: 10-20-09
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)
Section: 415.00

415.01 Purpose

- A. To provide a guidelines for fires in highrise buildings.
- B. To gain control of the building early in the fire.
- C. To insure the safety of all the building occupants.

415.02 Policy

Highrise fire guidelines shall be followed on any structures that are over five (5) stories and above.

415.03 Procedure

- A. This first arriving engine will establish a water supply to the sprinkler/standpipe connection.
- B. Arriving Paramedic Units will stage on the road facing the direction of traffic with emergency lights on. This placement will not impede all other arriving apparatus.
- C. Attach crews shall:
 - 1. Enter the lobby and obtain available information and relay same via a radio report.
 - 2. Activate the building fire alarm system if necessary.
 - 3. Locate the fire and relay information concerning location of fire (if known) and safety of elevators. (Status/useable?)
 - 4. Attempt to determine if a rescue exists.
 - 5. Request the necessary resources.
- D. The order of rescue/evacuation will be;
 - 1. Fire floor
 - 2. Floor above the fire
 - 3. Floor below the fire
 - 4. Remaining floors in ascending and descending order

415.04 Command Structure

Establish a Command Post including the following as needed:

- A. Resources Staging Area
- B. Lobby Control

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- C. Operating Staging Area
- D. Stairwell Support

415.05 Safety

- A. Establish lobby control early in the fire to control elevators, utilities and running list of personnel in and out of the building.
- B. Area below fire (exterior) should be kept clear for a safe distance in all directions due to the possibility of broken glass falling from above.
- C. Command Post should be a minimum of two hundred (200) feet from the fire building.
- D. If elevators are judged safe to use, proceed two floors below the fire and use stairwells the rest of the distance.
- E. Initial fire attack crew will need relief in twenty minutes (this includes the time it takes to ascend to the fire floor).
- F. Crews will be assigned by the Incident Commander.
- G. Personnel will not enter the building without being assigned to do so.

415.06 Communications

- A. Communications are usually poor in a steel frame building utilizing portable hand radios. Moving to an open window or roof will improve communications.
- B. It may be possible to utilize building's intercom or phone system and to contact the Command Post through cellular phone system.

415.07 Operations

- A. Locate fire – leaving one member in lobby to establish lobby control.
- B. Crews will be assigned by the incident commander.
- C. Prepare for standpipe operation. Pump to both standpipe and sprinkler system.
- D. Standpipe connections will be made on the floor below the fire floor.
- E. If evacuation is necessary, you may be able to move the occupants to a safe area two or three floors above or below the fire, rather than evacuating everyone out by way of the lobby.
- F. A Command Post shall be established and other highrise operational positions shall be implemented as needed to insure an efficient operation.
- G. All ventilation methods should be evaluated in conjunction with the buildings automatic or smoke management and smoke control systems.
- H. A forward staging area may be established on the floors below the fire floor for supplies and rehab.
- I. If possible, individual stairwells should be designated for operations or evacuation.