

Chapter 10-2

Standard Operating Guideline for 1st Alarm Structure Fire Response

Effective 01/01/06

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1. Purpose

This SOG details how PVFD will organize and control 1st alarm structure fires. Structure fires that escalate to greater alarms or fires that occur in mutual aid areas shall first be handled according to this SOG, unless specific other arrangements are made and communicated to all personnel in advance.

2. Scope

This SOG applies to all PVFD firefighters and line officers.

3. Response

All structure fire responses shall include at least 3 command units. This number may be reduced for alarm soundings, or other runs that have a high probability of being false. Responses shall also include at least 3 apparatus of the following types:

- 2 pumpers to act as engine companies

- 1 pumper, ladder, or rescue to act as a truck company

The Response Guide posted at the station shall determine the order of response for each unit. Command or Company Officers may alter this order if necessary for a particular incident.

If the minimum number of apparatus (as specified above) is not readily available from PVFD, or if there is a significant chance of the incident escalating beyond the first alarm, mutual aid shall be requested or a second alarm shall be declared as soon as this information is known.

Automatic mutual aid responses to neighboring districts for structure fires shall include one command unit, and the apparatus specified on the Response Guide. Other apparatus shall have crews assigned, but shall not respond until requested.

The first arriving pumper shall position at the fire scene to be the primary attack unit. Their placement must not hinder the placement of an aerial truck, if one is responding. The second pumper will position at the closest hydrant, or at the siamese connection. The third pumper will position at the second closest hydrant. All other apparatus will stage near the scene and be placed as needed.

4. Size-Up

The first arriving unit shall give a radio report detailing what the situation appears to be. This size-up should be made of short, concise statements that are easy to understand over the radio, and should include the following details:

- Address of the incident
- Brief description of the building including: number of stories, construction type, occupancy
- Brief description of fire conditions
- Statement of first actions to be taken
- Who is in command

Some examples of size-up reports are as follows:

"Unit 8433 is on scene at 412 LaGrange Rd, with a one story commercial building. There is light smoke showing from the roof. 8433 will begin evacuating the building. 8433W is LaGrange Rd Command"

"Unit 8402 is on scene at 308 Oak Terrace, with a two story frame house, working fire on the second floor. 8402 will be Oak Terrace Command."

"Unit 8433 is on scene at 7400 Friendship Dr, with a one story frame nursing home, nothing showing. Building has not been evacuated. We will be investigating. 8433W is Friendship Dr Command."

5. Strategy & Tactics

Structure fires shall be controlled in accordance with the PVFD SOP on General Fire Strategy & Tactics.

6. Firefighter Safety

All fires that pose an increased risk to firefighter safety shall require the use of a RIT team and observance of the KYOSHA rule on 2in-2out, in accordance with the PVFD Rapid Intervention Team SOP. The crew staffing the safety line shall serve as the RIT team/2-out until another crew is designated as the RIT team. A Safety Officer shall be appointed to monitor all offensive or defensive fire scenes.

Utilities serving the fire building shall be secured as soon as possible. Firefighters shall disconnect electricity via circuit breakers or disconnect switches only. LG&E or KU shall be requested if meters or high lines require disconnection.

Offensive, interior fire attack shall be made with no more than one attack line until a positive water supply is established. In areas without hydrants, the same applies until there is at least 1000 gallons of tank water connected and available for use. The only exception is when there is a confirmed rescue requiring immediate entry.

A safety line shall be pulled and staffed after the first attack line is pulled, and before a second attack line is pulled. The safety line may be left dry until needed, for mobility. If the scene is too big for the safety line to reach all areas, additional safety lines will be placed accordingly. Safety lines must remain staffed until the fire is under control. Each safety line must be of equal or greater length and flow capacity than the line it backs up.

7. Secure the Scene

Before a fire scene is returned to the control of its owner or occupant, The IC shall order an inspection by members of PVFD. The inspection shall check for the following:

- No hazards are left which could injure a civilian. Barricade any areas unsafe for entry.
- The fire is not likely to rekindle.
- All fire department equipment is accounted for.
- The building is secured from trespassing and weather damage as much as possible.

The owner or occupant shall then be briefed as to the condition of the property. Any potential hazards shall be pointed out. Utilities shall be reactivated as much as possible without affecting the fire area.

If the scene is turned over to another agency such as Police or Investigators, they must be specifically informed that they are responsible for leaving the scene safe for civilians.

If there is a chance of rekindle, the IC shall assign crews to return to the scene and inspect it on a regular basis. The inspections shall be done every few hours until the threat of rekindle has passed.