

## HIGH RISE

This plan is intended to adapt normal Standard Operating Guidelines and systems to a high-rise mode of operations.

High-rise fires present some particular problems in fire fighting operations. Most of these are related to the difficulties of access, the complexities of construction, and the number of occupants in these structures. By virtue of these considerations, any situation in a high-rise structure is more complicated than the same situation occurring in a low-rise environment.

**The Life Safety aspects of a fire in a high-rise structure are always a primary concern for Command.**

The strategic plan must include an evaluation of the conditions in each area of the structure and the tenability or need for evacuation. Large numbers of occupants may be involved in these decisions.

Command must direct the decision to remove occupants, when necessary, and the plan for evacuating or relocating occupants must be coordinated with the fire control strategy.

An aggressive coordinated attack has proven to be the most effective tactical option in the majority of high-rise fire situations.

### **Immediate Priorities**

The construction of most high-rise buildings effectively shields the interior from the outside. Even with "nothing showing", an assumption of a concealed fire should be made by Command.

The initial arriving units should be concerned with:

1. Identifying the fire floor.
2. Providing an attack on the fire floor with at least three (3) companies.
3. Providing of the life safety of persons in immediate danger.
4. Providing water supply for the initial attack.
5. Establishing lobby control.

6. Making s size-up of conditions on the fire floor and the floor above and ventilation needs.

### ESTABLISH COMMAND

In most high-rise situations the need for establishing Command "in the street" is secondary to the urgency of getting an officer and crew up to the fire area. A single company, arriving alone, should prepare to go up into the building with basic equipment. The first arriving company should give an arrival report, announce its actions and PASS COMMAND to the next arriving officer.

When several units arrive simultaneously, the officer of the first arriving company has the option of assuming or passing Command. At least one officer must go up to lead the attack and an exterior command post shall be established.

### INITIAL ATTACK

The Initial Attack should consist of at least three (3) companies. The officer leading the attack will be responsible for selecting the method of ascent to the reported fire area (elevator, stairs) depending on conditions. The annunciator panel must be checked for additional information prior to ascending to fire floors.

As soon as the fire floor is reached and identified, the officer will give Command a report of conditions on the fire floor, immediate needs, and a confirmation of the actual fire floor number. Command should then establish the fire floor as a Sector (Floor 16 = Sector 16).

When a building has multiple standpipes, the Fire Floor Sector Officer must advise Command where he needs water and Command will confirm the availability of pumped water to that particular riser.

At least one member shall remain in the lobby are to establish Lobby Sector and to gain control of all elevators using Emergency Recall or Manual Override. Lobby Sector must maintain accountability for attack companies and their method of ascent.

**The Initial Attack Companies will go upstairs with only SCBAs, hose packs, and basic forcible entry tools.** If access is via an elevator, an extinguisher should also be taken. Other equipment will be pooled in the lobby until a Resource Sector is established.

### COMMAND PRIORITIES

Once the initial attack companies have started up to the fire floor, Command must be concerned with the following.

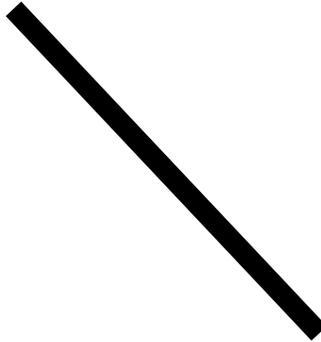
1. Provide an early water supply for the attack. Assign engineers and pumpers or additional engine companies to provide water to standpipes. When there are multiple systems, pump all standpipe inlets to insure a water supply to all standpipes in the building.
2. Assign a company to check the floor above the fire floor. Command must get a report on conditions above the fire as quickly as possible, indicating fire extension possibility, smoke conditions, need for evacuation and resource requirements.
3. Establish Lobby Control. A full company is needed for Lobby Control to take control of elevators and alarm systems and each stairway. Additional personnel may be required to assist as time permits (See LOBBY CONTROL).
4. Call for additional resources. Any type of working situation will quickly utilize an entire first alarm assignment. Call for additional alarms as soon as the need is identified. **A second alarm will be required on any evidence of a fire in the building. A third alarm has proven to be the bare minimum needed for a working fire.** Use level II staging.
5. Begin to establish supporting systems. A fire which is not controlled by the Initial Attack Companies will require a larger attack force and a supporting structure including Staging, Resources Sector, increased Lobby Control and the necessary additional elements. Begin to build this structure as soon as possible.

6. Establish ventilation sector. Assign a crew early to establish a ventilation sector. Early positive pressure ventilation of the attack stairwell is an absolute must. Additional stairwells may also require positive pressure ventilation.

**WHEN SEARCHING BUILDINGS WITH MULTIPLE UNITS  
THE FOLLOWING MARKING SYSTEM SHOULD BE USED**

The company that makes the primary search will mark the outside of the door with one large diagonal line (app. 36") using duct tape.

**(Example)**



The company that makes the secondary search will mark the outside of the door with one large additional diagonal line making an X using duct tape.

**(Example)**

