

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.245	Effective Date:	7/19/2005
Title:	High Rise Fires	# of pages:	4
Category:	Fire Ground Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines to familiarize fire department personnel in the placement and use of apparatus, equipment and personnel at high rise fires.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Tactical Priorities

- Establish command system
- Call additional resources required
- Rescue
- Fire control
- Control building air handling systems
- Establish support system

1st Arriving Company

- Assume Command
- Do size-up and give the initial report
- Investigation, rescue and/or fire attack
- Check conditions of the staging floor on the way by (1 or 2 floors below the fire floor)

2nd Arriving Company

- Establish lobby control
- Responsible for:
 - Control of building environment
 - Moving equipment and personnel to the interior staging area.
 - Restrict the use of elevators
 - Liaison with building maintenance personnel
- Pump operator will supply the sprinkler/standpipe system

3rd Arriving Company

- Take hose, SCBA, air bottles, hand tools, etc.
- Establish an interior staging area on the 1st or 2nd floor below the fire floor, depending on building and fire location.

Interior Staging Area

- One or two floors below the fire
- Is a reserve and rehab area

- Anticipate needs – Maintaining one company on a line requires two companies for back-up at the interior staging area.
- May require the utilization of more than one floor.
- Anticipate relocating if conditions warrant.

Base (Exterior/Main) Staging Area

- Area 200' from building used for parking apparatus, whose companies are committed to the operation or are in a standby status.
- If using a street, park apparatus diagonally
- Companies assigned should strip their equipment – scotts, hose lines, tools, spare bottles, etc and report to the lobby control point. All personnel should carry something.

Stairwell Support

- The company assigned to stairwell support will place a firefighter at every one or two floors.
- That firefighter will move all equipment between those two floors so all equipment is moved from the lobby to the interior staging area.
- When assigned to this function, firefighters will remove turn-out coats unless conditions dictate otherwise.

Command Post

- Command location shall be identified
- Located at least 200' from incident structure if major fire conditions exist.

Command System

- Fireground Command – Overall Incident Commander
- Operations Command – Close proximity to the fire floor and interior staging. In charge of fire ground operations.
- Division Officers – Officer in charge of a specific floor or function.
- Interior Staging – Moves crews and equipment from staging to fire then back to a rehab area.
- Base Staging Officer – Moves crews and equipment to the fire building.
- Staging Officer – Keeps one or more alarm assignment in the area, to be assigned to the incident upon request of the fire ground commander. Request additional companies from fire dispatch.
- Lobby Control Officer – Responsible for controlling all activities and functions in the assigned area – Access to stairways, elevators, HVAC equipment, alarm and communication equipment, etc.
- Communications – Operations command to sectors will be fact to face when practical. Sector/operations officer to command should **be on** either frequency 280 or state fire.

General

- First in companies may have to carry all equipment to the fire area.

- Relief crews assigned to the interior staging will not carry equipment once the stairwell support is established.
- Fatigue of firefighters in high rise operations is rapid. Effective time on the fire floor is 10 to 15 minutes.
- The engine supplying the sprinkler/standpipe systems should reverse lay a 4" line to a hydrant outside of the 200' danger zone and connect with cordflex.
- If elevators are to be utilized:
 - First establish that there is no fire or heavy smoke conditions in the elevators shafts.
 - Use elevators only to the floor below the fire and then use the stairwell.
 - If there are any doubts at all, use the stairs

Considerations

Rescue/Evacuations

- Total evacuation may not be practical due to time requirement, manpower and impeding of fire operations.
- May require removal of glass. Ground area must be cleared of all personnel, victims, spectators, etc. Duct tape windows prior to breaking if possible.
- Vent top and bottom of stairwells to provide safe passage of occupants.

Salvage

- Possible water damage to all floors
- Use sawdust dikes, restrooms, floor drains, for water removal
- Do not use elevator shafts.
- Use the stairwells as a last resort.

Emergency Medical

- One team (2 people) should be assigned to the interior staging area to monitor firefighters.
- Set up a triage area beyond danger zone in a location with access in and out for rescue traffic.
- If necessary institute mass casualty SOG

Pre-Assigned Level 2 Staging Areas

All second alarm, or greater, apparatus will report to these areas unless otherwise directed.

- **Breakwater Condo (Midrise):** SMCC parking lot
- **SMCC NRH Dorm:** SMCC parking lot
- **425 Broadway:** Brown School parking lot and/or Hannaford parking lot
- **10 Soule Street:** Brown School parking lot and/or Hannaford parking lot
- **Mall Hotels (Marriot, Holiday Inn, etc):** Maine Mall parking lot

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

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