

4.05 ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS

Scope- This procedure will provide an organized method in which to carry out the fire ground functions in a timely and safe manner. Discussed will be the rescue procedures, initial fire attack and line placement, safety, and fire ground organization.

First Engine to Arrive- On any response as listed below, the first arriving engine shall pull up to fire scene and begin fire suppression.

1. actual fire is reported
2. upon arrival in the area, smoke or flame are observed
3. natural gas or Lp gas leak is reported or detected

Catching the Hydrant- The second arriving engine shall stop at the nearest hydrant prior to the structure. One fire fighter shall remove the LDH, and hydrant accessories from the engine, which include two 2 1/2" gate valves, and a hydrant wrench. The hydrant person shall wrap the hose around the hydrant, and signal the driver to proceed to the structure. As the engine lays out the hose, the hydrant person removes the hydrant caps and flushes the hydrant. The hydrant is shut down. The two gate valves are installed, and the LDH is attached. The hydrant person waits for two short air horn blasts from the engine, which signals the LDH has been attached to the engine. The hydrant shall then be opened completely. After the hydrant has been turned on, the hydrant person proceeds to the fire, and straightens the hose as proceeding.

Engine Company Positioning- Positioning of the engine is the responsibility of the driver. The driver should position the apparatus for optimum efficiency. When positioning the engine for a dwelling fire, the driver should position the engine just past the fire building. This is done for two reasons:

- it allows the officer to view three sides of the fire building (side D, side A, and side B of the building); and;
- it leaves side A (front) of the building available for additional vehicles.

Rescue- It is imperative that a hand line be stretched to the heart of the fire by the first arriving engine in an attempt to stop the forward progress of the fire. This will facilitate the rescue effort and lessen the danger to the occupants. If the occupants are visible from the exterior of the building, an attempt should be made to rescue them with the use of ground ladders. If manpower permits, the rescue should be carried out while a hand line is advanced to the seat of the fire, Members advancing the hand line to the fire area can search that area as well as extinguish or control the fire.

Any emergency medical care should be given to the occupants of the residence as soon as possible, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation. There should be no hesitation in requesting emergency traffic for an ambulance to treat occupants, or for standing by for possible use at a later time.

Fire Control- At least one hand line shall be advanced to the heart of the fire. The line chosen shall never be less than 1 1/2" inches in diameter. The fire attack shall be made from the unburned side of the building. In the majority of the cases, the line can be advanced through the front door of the dwelling. From this point, access is usually available to all areas of the

dwelling. The number of lines to be used will be the choice of the Incident Commander and depend directly on the nature and size of the fire encountered. A back-up safety line is necessary to protect the fire attack crew. The back-up shall be larger than the attack line if possible.

Second Arriving Engine Company- The primary responsibility of the second arriving Engine Company will be to ensure that the first arriving Engine Company has an efficient and uninterrupted water supply and an alternative water supply is located. The second arriving Engine should approach, if possible, from the opposite direction of the first arriving Engine. The second arriving Engine shall stage at the nearest alternate hydrant, and wait for further instruction after reporting to Command. In non-hydrant areas, the second Engine should set up a porta-tank for the first Engine and dump its water in the porta-tank and go to the nearest water source to refill and continue with water shuttle unless otherwise instructed by Incident Command.

Overhaul- When the fire has been confined and/or declared under control, overhaul efforts should begin. At least one hand line shall remain in service during overhaul. Overhaul will continue at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

Property Conservation- Property conservation measures should begin as soon as possible to reduce the loss by fire, heat, smoke and water. Property conservation efforts are to be performed by Truck Company or Engine Company personnel only when staffing permits and the fire has been declared under control by the Incident Commander.

Safety- The safety of the fire department personnel is of utmost concern. No member shall be permitted to take part in fire suppression activities unless that person is wearing full protective clothing including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). SCBA's shall be worn at all times on the interior of the building during fire suppression activities, including during overhaul, until directed differently by Command.

All injuries to firefighters shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer and required medical attention given. The Company Officer shall report all injuries to the Duty Chief.

Truck Company Positioning- The positioning of Truck 5371 shall be the responsibility of the driver, if not assigned by Incident Commander. Additional vehicles will stage a reasonable distance away from the scene until advised by command to move up. Truck 5371, in most cases, will act as the command post. This should be kept in mind when positioning Truck 5371. The driver of Truck 5371 should assume personnel staging position.

Search and Rescue- At least 2 or preferably 3 fire fighters will always be assigned this task. In the average dwelling, 2 or preferably 3 fire fighters will be able to quickly search and locate victims.

Primary Search- A primary search must be performed at every fire situation, whether fire is showing or not. The only difference is the number of fire fighters assigned this task. In nothing showing situations, the primary search can be assigned to two fire fighters, however, if a fire is located, more fire fighters must be assigned to the task. The crew performing search and rescue

must be equipped with one radio to keep in constant communication.

When conditions indicate there is a fire or the first arriving company reports a fire in their size-up, a primary search must be performed to locate and remove endangered occupants, or to verify that civilians have escaped the fire. The nozzle operators can perform the primary search of the immediate fire area while the truck company personnel begin the primary search on the floor immediately above the fire. All searches must be made using the standardized search pattern indicated in this section. If time and staffing permits, the search and rescue crews operating above the fire should do so with the protection of a hand line in close proximity. This will provide protection for the fire fighters performing this task.

Fire fighters performing the primary search ~ have forcible entry tools with them to force open locked doors or to aid the escape of the fire fighter should he/she become trapped in a building or room.

Victims are often overcome attempting to escape the fire. For this reason, fire fighters performing the primary search will commonly find victims next to doors and windows. Fire fighters should pay close attention for signs of trapped or injured occupants. Coughing, moaning, or cries for help indicate people may not have escaped the area (see Figure 1). If occupants or victims are located, this should be communicated to the Incident Commander immediately. Victims should be removed via the interior stairway if at all possible. Ladders should be used only if passage down the stairway is not possible.

Standard Search Pattern- All fire fighters performing a primary search will use a standardized search pattern with all turns to be made to either the right or left (see Figure 2). The sequence to be used in searching the fire building will be made as follows: the fire area, floor above the fire, the very top floor, all other floors working down from the very top floor. Even when using thermal camera, standardized search pattern should still be used. Search crew should let Operations Officer know what pattern they will be using before entering fire building. The use of a standardized search pattern will provide a systematic method to completely search a building or area. Should a fire fighter become disorientated or lost or if thermal camera would malfunction, a rescue team will already know their possible location from the search patterns they will have used.

The primary function of 5371 is rescue. Other duties must be performed in conjunction with rescue. Many of the duties performed will aid in rescue or will greatly facilitate the rescue process.

Ladders- If occupants are visible at the windows, roofs, or porches, they should be rescued immediately by the use of ground ladders. If people are not visible, ground ladders must be used anyway. At least one ladder must be placed to the second floor living area to permit quick access for search and rescue operations. This ladder will also be used as a second means of egress for fire fighters operating on the second floor of the structure. Note: Truck company operation can be carried out by Engine Company as well.

Secondary Search- As soon as the fire has been declared under control by the incident commander, a secondary search must be made of the fire building. All areas should be checked thoroughly for anyone who may have been missed during the primary search. The company officer shall inform the Incident Commander that the secondary search has been completed.

Ventilation- Ventilation must be performed. Ventilation facilitates rescue, fire control and property conservation. One fire fighter should be designated as the outside vent person (OVA). His duty is to take out the exterior windows with the use of a pike pole or similar tool. Ventilation shall not occur until attack lines have been charged. It will be seldom necessary to “open the roof” of a one or two family dwelling. Should an attic fire be encountered, the opening of the chimney and roof dormers will usually provide adequate ventilation.

Forcible Entry- All fire fighters should be prepared to perform forcible entry. Forcible entry equipment such as axes, pike poles, pry bars, and halogen tools are standard tools. Entry must be made in the quickest and most cost effective manner.

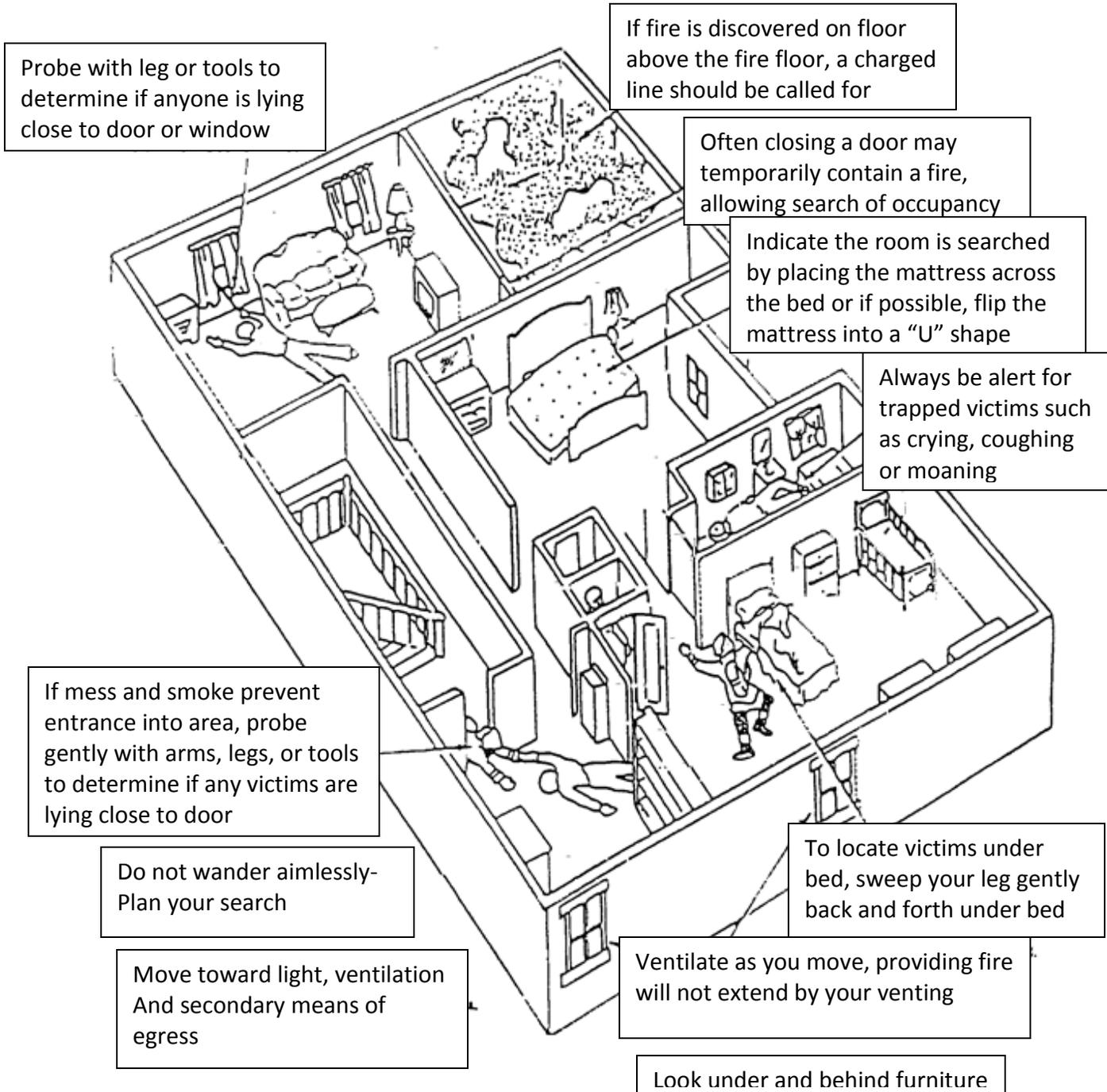
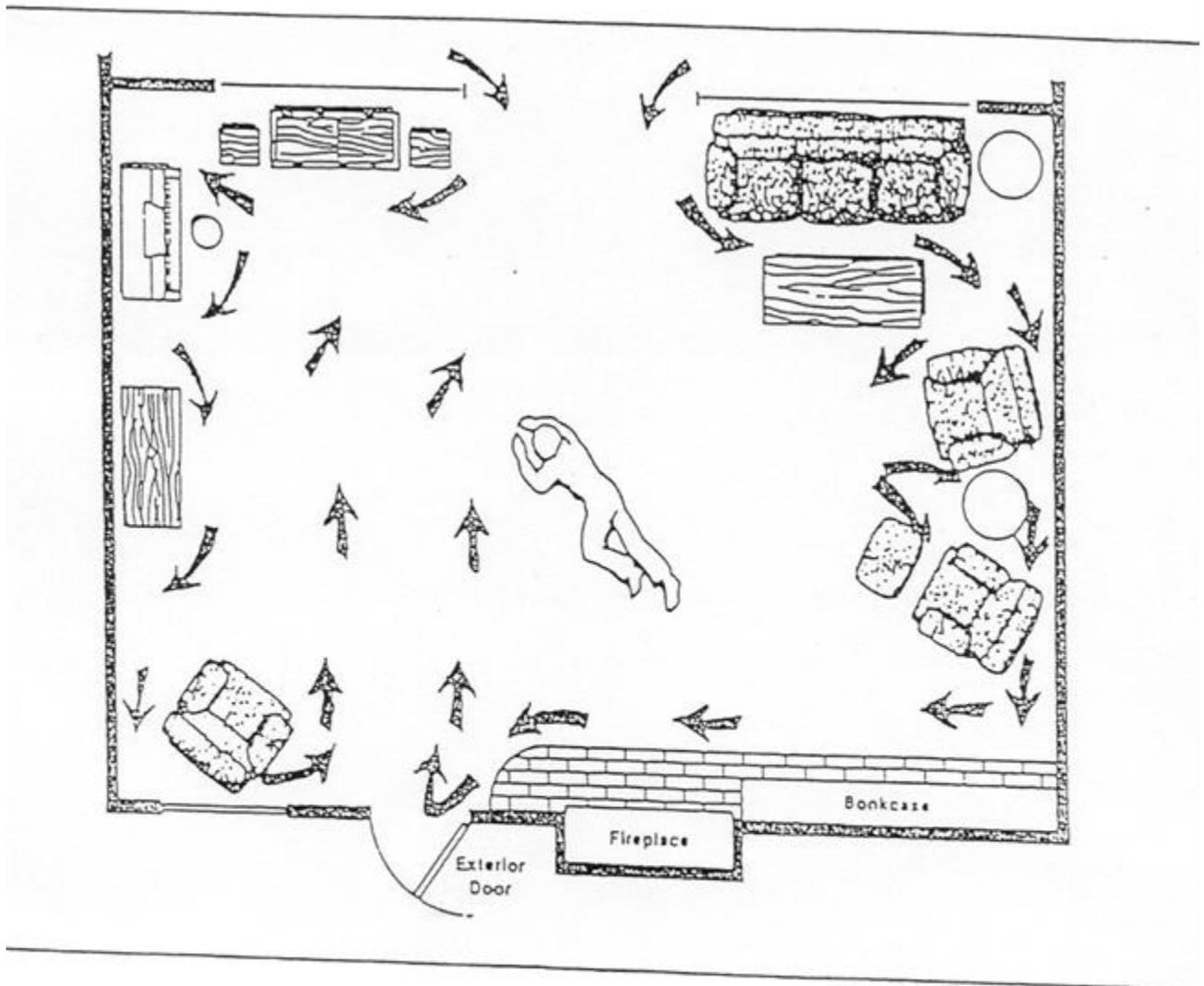


Figure 1



A standardized search procedure where all turns are made in the same direction.

Figure 2

Utility Control- All utilities with the exception of natural gas shall be controlled by the appropriate utility companies. One fire fighter must be assigned to close the gas valve off at the meter if a fire is found. The valve can normally be found on the lower left side of the meter at or near grade level.

Salvage Operations- As soon as conditions permit, salvage operations should begin. Salvage covers should be used to protect valuables and not to permit further damage by water or smoke.

Overhaul- 5371 personnel will assist engine company personnel with the task of overhaul. 5371 personnel must pull walls and ceilings that have been exposed to fire to prevent a rekindle.

Safety- All members must be equipped with full protective clothing, including SCBA's, who are engaged in fire suppression activities. All injuries must be reported to your company officer immediately.

Company Officer Responsibility- Unlike that of the engine officers, 5371 officer must coordinate many different vital foreground functions. They must divide them up according to the number of available fire fighters they have. 5371 officer must prioritize the foreground functions to be performed as to the condition of the fire situation present.

TERMS:

Primary Search- A search that is made for potential victims or occupants when fire fighters initially arrive on the scene of an emergency. The emphasis is on quickness and being thorough.

Secondary Search- A search that is begun after the fire is under control or has been extinguished. The search is conducted to verify the fact that no one has been missed during the primary search.

Standardized Search Pattern- A method of searching a fire building or area that covers the area to be searched in a complete systematic manner. All turns are the same direction every time a door or other opening is encountered.