

#### 4.06 MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS

Scope- This procedure has been developed to provide the Town of Greenville Fire Department with a set of guidelines to be followed in the event of an incident involving multiple family dwellings.

Multiple-family dwellings can be defined as "All buildings or portions thereof, which contain more than two living units or areas such as apartments, motels, hotels, condominiums, townhouses, row houses, boarding houses, homes for the elderly, health care facilities, and other like buildings.

This policy does not cover one and two family dwellings or HIGHRISE BUILDINGS.

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

- A. It allows the officer to view three sides of the fire building (sides A, B and D)
- B. It leaves side A (front) of the fire building available for a ladder company, if needed

The ladder truck should be positioned in the front of the fire building so they may perform their duties, if the ladder truck is called in.

Placement of the Truck just past the fire building, or placement of the ladder company in the front of the building, may not always be possible. Some conditions such as:

- A. Location of the fire
- B. Access to the property
- C. Wind direction
- D. Exterior exposures

may cause the officer to deviate from positioning the apparatus as specified above. Apparatus placement must always be positioned for the safety of personnel and equipment.

First Arriving Truck- The first arriving Truck Company shall connect to the nearest hydrant prior to the fire building and lay a supply line as outlined in Section 4.0602. At least one 1-1/2 inch, or greater, hand line should be advanced to attack the fire from the unburned side. This hand line should be used to attack the fire and maintain control of the stairway at all times. If adequate fire fighters are available from the Truck, these additional fire fighters shall be used in the following manner:

- A. Evacuate or remove endangered persons
- B. Advance additional hand lines
- C. Begin support or ladder activities

#### Second Arriving Truck

Sprinklered Buildings- The second arriving Truck shall secure a water supply and support the building's automatic fire sprinkler system unless an Airport Truck has already been assigned this duty. In this case the second arriving engine shall locate an alternative hydrant

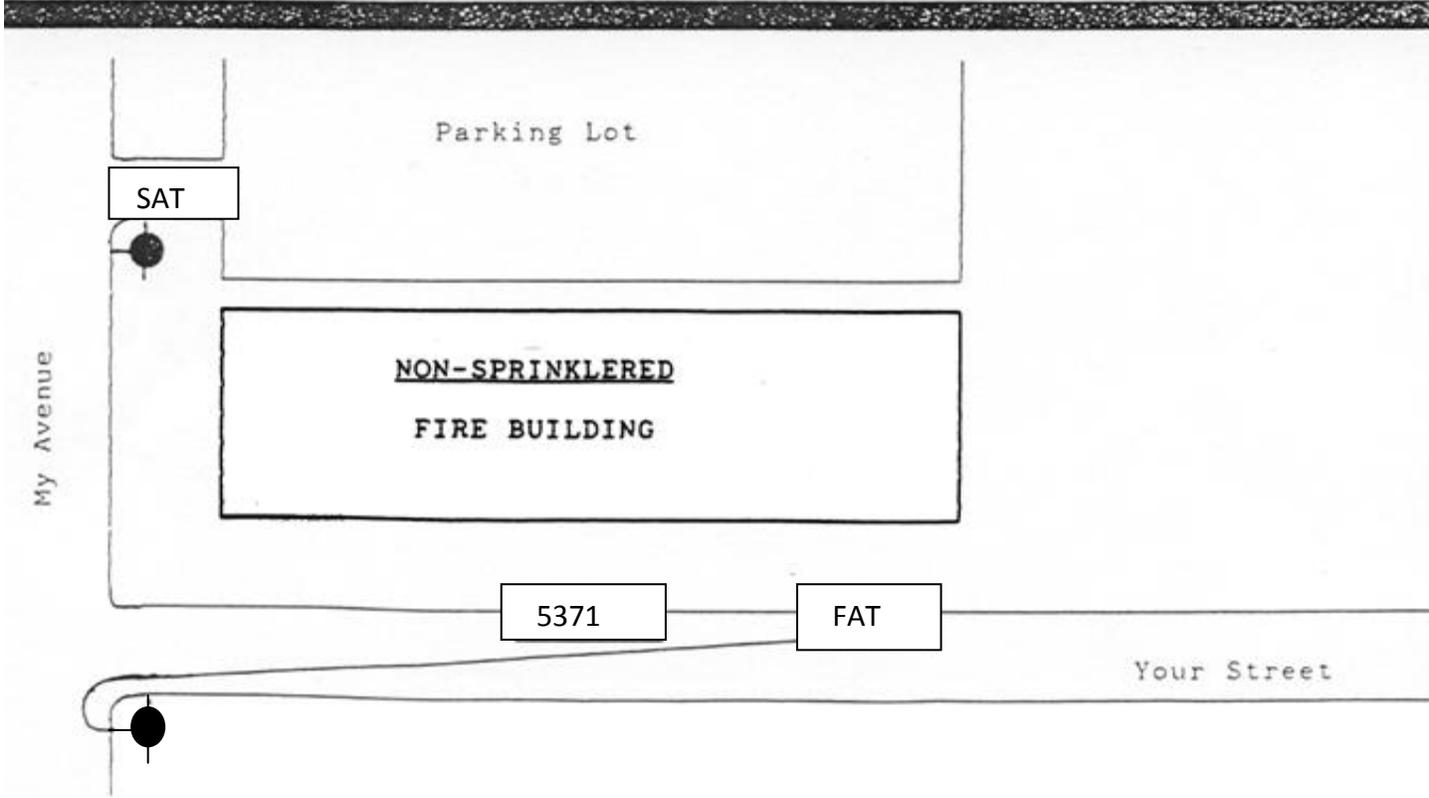
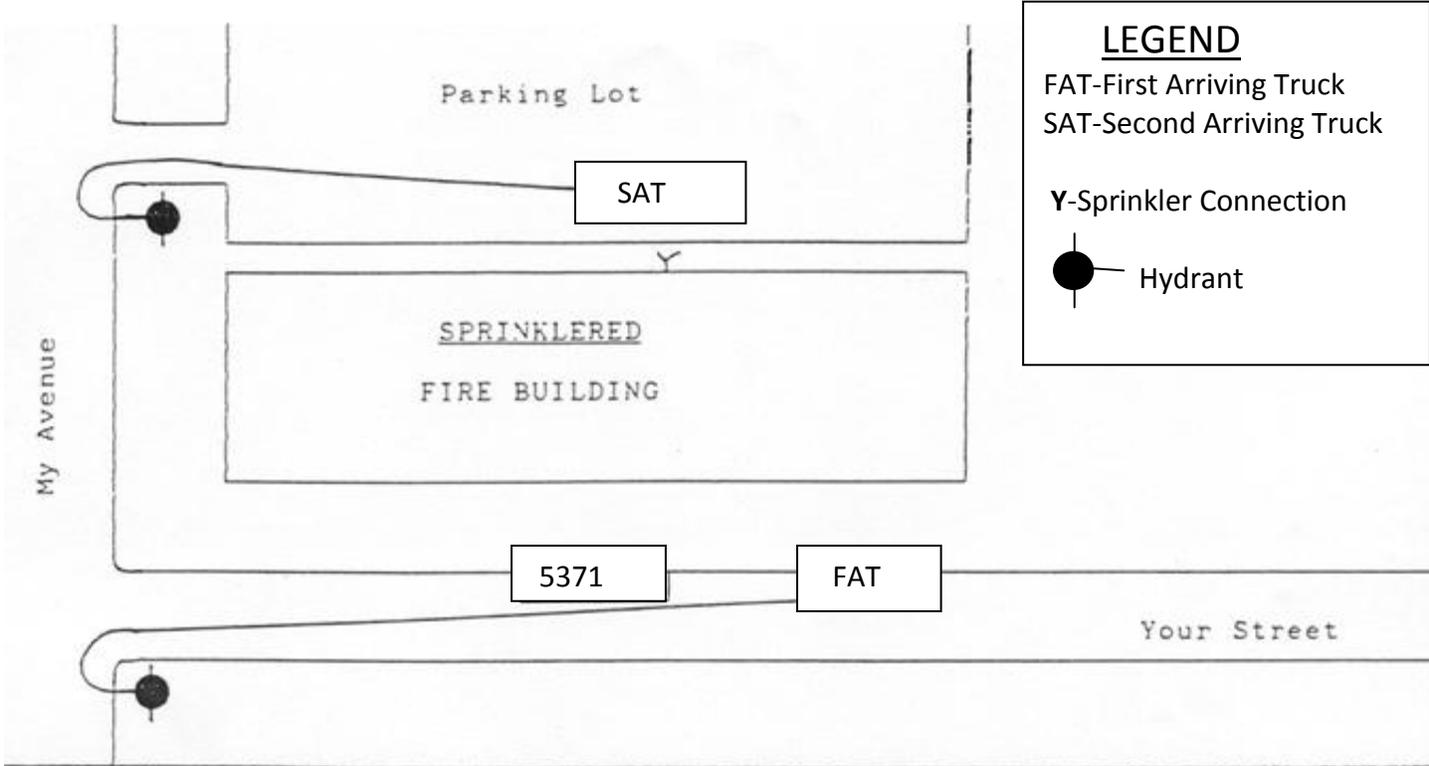
Non-Sprinklered Buildings- The second arriving Truck shall locate an alternative hydrant and stand-by for further direction from the Incident Commander. The fire fighters from the second arriving engine can be utilized for rescue or the placement of additional hand lines.

At the option of command, these additional fire fighters can be utilized for Squad 5371 (support) activities, fire suppression, or as command deems necessary for control or mitigation of the incident

Hydrants- Hydrant selection by engine companies is very important. Separate water supplies (hydrants) shall be used, if possible, for fire attack and sprinkler system support. (See illustrations)

Squad 5371 Operations- It will be the responsibility of the officer of Squad 5371, or acting officer, to prioritize the support activities to be performed according to the fire conditions presented. Although some of the duties may have been already implemented by earlier arriving engine companies, it will be the responsibility of the officer of Squad 5371 to coordinate the remaining activities to ensure they will be completed. The following are some of the activities or duties that must be addressed: rescue, ladders, forcible entry, salvage, ventilation, and utility control. Many of these duties can be carried out simultaneously with one another.

Rescue- Life safety is of the utmost concern. The rescue of trapped or endangered persons is essential and should be carried out immediately. All options should be examined to ensure that rescue is accomplished. The raising of ground ladders may be the only way of performing rescue. The use of interior stairs, however, is always the safest and most convenient method if possible.



Ventilation- Ventilation is an important function that must be performed at every fire. Ventilation should be carried out because of the following advantages:

- A. Reduces potential for flashover
- B. Reduces potential for backdraft
- C. Improves fire fighter visibility
- D. Reduces the toxicity of the atmosphere inside of the room or area
- E. Reduces fire damage

Fires that occur in living or sleeping areas can be ventilated by removing windows from the exterior of the building with pike poles or ladders. In some instances, the removal of patio doors/windows may be extremely helpful for the ventilation of entire apartments.

Fire that extends to attics must be controlled quickly. Ventilation of the roof is essential. Venting of the roof should be performed directly over, or as SAFELY as possible, close to the area of the fire. In fires that are extremely smokey, roof ventilation should be performed over stairwells or hallways to clear these areas of smoke and toxic gases.

When roof ventilation is performed, it shall be performed with a minimum number of two fire fighters in full protective equipment, including SCBA. The following equipment shall be considered standard equipment to be taken to the roof at all times:

- A. Pick-Headed Axes
- B. Pike Poles
- C. Chain saw or Cut off saw
- D. Rope
- E. Flashlights
- F. Roof Ladder(s)
- G. Radio
- H. Charged Hose line
- I. Charged Hose line

Prior to roof ventilation activities, at least two ladders must be raised to the roof. Depending on access, an aerial ladder can be positioned to the roof and a ground ladder placed as a secondary means of egress. One large opening should be made rather than two smaller ones. Care shall be taken not to cut or damage the supporting roof support systems. If the roof shows conditions of collapse (sagging, separation of roof and walls, large cracks or openings around ducts, chimneys, etc.), command must be notified at once. Once the opening(s) have been made, be sure to remove any ceilings to ensure ventilation is accomplished in the attic or upper most floor. Once ventilation is complete, command shall be notified.

Positive pressure ventilation is highly recommended if possible.

Ladders- Ladders will play an important role in multiple-family dwelling fires. Ladders are raised for three basic uses:

- A. Rescue
- B. To gain access to upper stories
- C. To obtain firefighting advantage points

Ladders shall be raised as soon as possible to perform the primary and secondary searches of the upper floors. Ladders should also be raised to provide a secondary means of egress for fire fighters who may become trapped on the upper floors of a building by fire or smoke.

Roof operations ALWAYS require at least two ladders be raised at different locations on the roof. One ladder is used for access to the roof; the other as a secondary means of egress.

The use of an aerial ladder for roof operations and rescue may save valuable time. The decision for use of this ladder is the company officer's. On many occasions, it is standard that the truck place its ladder immediately to the roof upon arrival at a working fire.

Utility Control- Control of the utilities shall always be performed by the appropriate company with the exception of natural gas. Natural gas can be shut off at the meter by locating the shut off valve. This valve is normally located on the left side of the meter at or near grade level. One fire fighter should be assigned this task.

Salvage – Overhaul- 5371 personnel shall assist in salvage and overhaul operations. Ceiling and walls that have been exposed to fire should be pulled to verify that the fire has been extinguished. Care should be taken not to cause unnecessary damage.

Salvage shall begin as soon as the fire or personnel permits. Tarps should be used to protect the content of the building from further damage as a result of smoke, heat or water.