

4.07 **COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

Scope- Commercial properties shall include businesses, schools and shops with very limited special hazards.

Truck Positioning- Positioning of the Truck is the responsibility of the driver. The Truck should be positioned keeping the following factors in mind:

- A. Location of fire in building
- B. Access to building
- C. Keeping the front of building open for a ladder truck

Most generally on small to medium size commercial property, it is advantageous to position the Truck just past the building leaving the front of the building available to the ladder truck.

First Truck to Arrive- On any response as listed below, the first arriving Truck shall forward lay a LDH (large diameter hose) supply line from the nearest hydrant while pulling up to the structure.

- A. actual fire is reported
- B. upon arrival in the area, smoke or flame are observed
- C. natural gas or Lp gas leak is reported or detected

Catching the Hydrant- The first arriving Truck shall stop at the nearest hydrant prior to the structure. One fire fighter shall remove the LDH, and hydrant accessories from the Truck, 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.

Rescue- At least one hand line (1 3/4" or greater) should be advanced to the heart of the fire. This action may serve to stop the forward progress of the fire, to facilitate the rescue. If persons are visible, immediate steps should be taken to rescue these persons. Depending on number of persons to be rescued, this may mean a line is not advanced initially. Should a crew advance a line to the seat of the fire, this crew can search this immediate area for possible victims.

Fire Control- At least one hand line (1 3/4" or greater) shall be advanced to the seat of the fire. Additional hand lines shall be advanced to control and extinguish the fire as required. All fire attack shall take place from the unburned side of the building.

Second Arriving Truck- The second arriving Truck shall support the automatic sprinkler system if the building is so equipped. In the event an Airport Truck has already been assigned that duty or it is an unsprinklered building, the second engine shall establish an alternative water supply.

Overhaul- As soon as the fire has been declared under control, overhaul operations should begin. Overhaul shall be carried out under the supervision of a company officer. Charged hand lines of sufficient number shall be present under this operation.

5371 Positioning- 5371 should most always take the front of the building. This will be the responsibility of the driver. On commercial properties, positioning should be made with the following objectives in mind:

- A. Location of fire
- B. Wind Direction
- C. Location of command post for possible extended operation
- D. Keep possible ladder truck access

Rescue- Ladders should be used (including aerial) to conduct the primary search as soon as possible and to rescue any occupants trapped by the fire. Search priorities shall be as follows:

- A. Fire area
- B. Floor above fire
- C. Top floor
- D. Floors in between

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 a 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 5371 personnel begin the primary search on the floor immediately above the fire. All searches must be made using the standardized search pattern indicated in Section 4.05. 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 must 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 have not escaped. 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.

Fire fighters shall mark the rooms or areas that have been searched by placing a cross or X on the door or wall using the chalk issued to them.

Standard Search Pattern- All fire fighters performing a primary search will use a standardized search pattern with all turns to be made either to the right or left. 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.

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, a rescue team will already know their possible location from the search patterns they will have used.

Ventilation- Ventilation must be carried out at every fire situation. Ventilation shall be coordinated with the fire attack. Ventilation should not be started without charged hose lines positioned for attack. Windows in the immediate fire area should be broken out. Caution shall be taken to guard against a backdraft situation. Additional ventilation shall take place as required by the fire situation present.

Roof Ventilation- Roof ventilation should be carried out in any commercial building involved in significant fire. The vent hole(s) shall be made as safely as closely as possible to the main body of fire. At least two ladders shall be used in this operation (one may be an aerial ladder). Minimum equipment to be taken to the roof shall be:

- A. SCBA -For each member
- B. Power Saw
- C. Axe
- D. Pike Pole
- E. Rope
- F. Radio
- G. Flashlights
- H. Charged Hand line
- I. Safety Strap and Harness

Secondary Search- As soon as possible a secondary search shall be made to verify that there are no occupants in the building. The results of this search shall be communicated to command.

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

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

Safety- The safety of fire department personnel is of the 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 fire fighters shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer and required medical attention given. The Company Officer shall report all injuries to the Duty Chief.