



Middleburg Heights Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Residential Structure Fires

SOG#:

Category: Fire Operations

Approved:

Initiated:

Revised:

Purpose

It is of the utmost importance that the safety of firefighters be the primary concern to the OIC in all structure fires. The OIC will take whatever action he deems necessary to protect and saves lives.

Upon receipt of a reported structure fire, the following guidelines shall be used:

The primary concern with residential structure fires shall be identification of a life safety hazard and securing of a water supply. The engineer, or engine company chauffer, (ECC) of 2522 will make the determination prior to responding what his primary source of water shall be. i.e. Location of hydrant, pond, etc.

Scope

This SOG applies to all Middleburg Heights Firefighters

Guideline

Sec. 1-Vehicle Response:

Engine 2522 with 4 firefighters

Squad 2542 with at least 2 firefighters

All vehicles shall respond in emergency mode unless the situation dictates otherwise.

Sec. 2-Vehicle Placement:

Engine 2522

The ECC shall drive the engine just past the building to give the OIC an opportunity to view 3 sides of the building and leave room for a ladder truck in front.

Squad 2542

The squad shall be placed in a position so as not to impede the progress of any other fire vehicle that may arrive on scene.

Sec. 3-Riding Positions:

The responsibilities of each position will vary depending on the type of situation found. Two different types of situations will be discussed: “working fire”, and “nothing showing, 2522 investigating”. Each of these situations will be addressed later in this SOP.

Engine 2522 shall have 4 riding positions each with its own designated responsibility. Those 4 positions shall be named:

- 1-Officer in charge (OIC)
- 2-Engine Company Chauffeur
- 3-Can man
- 4-Irons

Squad 2542 shall have at least 2 riding positions each with their own designated responsibility. The two most senior and or ranking firefighters shall remain on the squad. The remaining firefighter will then be assigned to the engine. The two squad positions (including extra firefighters) shall be named:

- 1-Squad driver – outside vent
- 2-Squad Officer in charge
- 3-Squad X-1
- 4-Squad X-2

Response with less than 4 firefighters

The preceding riding positions may be affected by the possibility of less than 4 firefighters on the fire apparatus. The 2 in/2 out rule must be maintained at all times. However, the situation presented with may dictate an immediate threat to life and proper action must be taken. The OIC must ascertain the possibility of a viable threat to life. If the OIC feels that with the information available a threat to life exists, a search and rescue may begin. Notification of such must be made over the radio to notify all incoming units that an unprotected search is under way. If a threat to life is unclear or not present, the following actions will be undertaken:

1. Assess life safety hazard
2. Assess threat to exposures, if any
3. Attempt to secure a water supply and stretch a handline, DO NOT ENTER
4. Make a 360 degree view of the building

Sec. 4-Initial Scene Arrival

Upon arrival, the OIC will make an initial scene size-up. A report shall be made over the radio identifying the situation found. The type of building, if known, number of stories, and visible fire conditions shall be verbalized. A decision is to be made on either an offensive or defensive attack. An offensive attack shall be further described as either a simple offensive attack or offensive attack with an immediate life hazard. Any threatened exposures should also be identified.

4.1 Incident Command

The OIC will implement the incident command system by establishing command after making the initial size up report. The OIC will specify they are in command by use of their badge number. The complexity of the event will dictate the degree to which the NIMS (National Incident Management System) plan is implemented.

4.2 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid can now be called. If the OIC deems it necessary based on information gained prior to responding and or en-route, mutual aid may be called prior to arrival on scene. Use of The Middleburg Heights Fire Departments mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS) would be in order. (See MABAS SOG for specific guidelines)

4.3 Shift Recall

A recall of shift personnel shall also be made at this time. The OIC will determine if an "All-Call" or simply a recall of the previous day's shift will be necessary.

Sec. 5-Offensive Attack-No Immediate Life Hazard

It is of the essence that every effort should be made to get the first hose line into operation. If an offensive attack with no immediate life hazard is ordered for a call of a "working fire", the following tasks shall be implemented by the respective riding positions:

5.1 Engine 2522

5.1.1-OIC

The engine company officer will have more influence on the outcome of a fire operation than any other member on the scene. The attitude this officer displays will become a model for the unit's firefighters to follow. The manner in which orders are given and assignments made sets the tone for the entire engine company operation at a fire or emergency. Officers who are serious about training and expect a high level of professionalism from the members of their company will see it reflected in their unit's performance at drills, fires, and emergencies. As has been stated previously, the OIC will have by now made the determination that a life safety hazard exists and what type of attack

shall be made. A 360 degree view of the structure should be made if possible to identify and “hidden” dangers. The OIC should NOT be entering the structure at any time unless absolutely necessary and the primary focus shall be to locate, confine, and extinguish.

5.1.2-ECC

After the OIC has determined that a hose line is needed, the location, route, and number of lengths required in the stretch should be relayed to the unit's members. Properly trained firefighters should be able to perform the following tactics without the officer's personal supervision:

- Hose estimate and removal from the apparatus.
- Positioning the apparatus at a serviceable hydrant.
- Connection of the apparatus to a hydrant.
- Stretching a hose line.
- Supplying booster water if ordered.
- Operation of apparatus mounted master stream device.
- Supplying standpipe and sprinkler systems.

The ECC's initial main responsibility shall be to secure a steady water supply. The tank on the engine does not qualify as such, and should only be considered as a temporary supply. The ECC shall work with the other designated firefighters to assist in establishing the water supply, if feasible. The ECC does not have to be directly involved with the actual physical connection, however he must oversee the process. In the event a forward lay is required, the irons man will exit the vehicle and wrap the hydrant. After wrapping the hydrant, the firefighter will return to the vehicle and proceed directly to the fire scene. Rescue 2542 will stop and make the connection in coordination with the ECC.

5.1.3-Can Man

The can man will be designated as the nozzle man on a working fire. He will remove the appropriate hose as determined by the OIC using whichever hose load removal technique is most comfortable. The amount of hose pulled shall also be determined by the OIC. The stretch shall be made to either the front door or other safe area of initial attack as determined by the OIC.

Summary:>>Stretch 1st Line>>Nozzle Man

5.1.4-Irons Man

The first role of the irons man will be to assist with water supply, be it a hydrant connection or static water source. The irons man may exit the vehicle after a complete stop, wrap the hydrant, and return to the vehicle as part of a forward lay. The 2nd role will be to become the 2nd back-up on the initial attack line behind the OIC of 2542. The irons man plays a key role in hose line advancement, by assuring that the hoseline continues to move freely into the structure. He should also pay attention to fire conditions from his vantage point and make radio notifications of changing conditions at the main exit point.

Summary:>>Water supply connection>>2nd Back-up

5.2 Squad 2542

5.2.1-OIC

The OIC of 2542 will assume the role of 1st back-up on the initial attack line. It will be this firefighter's responsibility to guide the nozzleman. The 2542 OIC should use their experience and training to monitor the interior situation and communicate conditions back to the main OIC. The use of the thermal imaging camera (TIC) should be standard. The OIC of 2542 may also assist the scene OIC with any possible visual observations and command decisions. He may be thought of as 'interior command'.

Summary:>>1st Back up>>Assist OIC>>Interior command

5.2.2-Squad Driver – Outside vent

The squad driver will assist the irons man from engine 2522 with water supply. After such water supply has been established, the rescue driver may continue on to secondary operations, as assigned by the OIC. The main secondary operation should be to function as the outside vent, or OV. This assignment may include vertical ventilation.

Summary:>>Water Supply>>Outside Vent>>Any other role deemed necessary by the OIC

Sec. 6-Offensive Attack-Immediate Life Hazard

6.1 Engine 2522

6.1.1-OIC

The roles of the OIC are the same as described in section 5.1.1, but focus shall be on rescue and extinguishment. A coordinated attack and rescue operation must be undertaken. The crew from Rescue 2542 shall be utilized as a search and rescue crew.

6.1.2-ECC

No change from section 5.1.2

6.1.3-Can Man

The can man will again be designated as the nozzle man. He will be responsible for stretching the initial attack line to the safe area of initial attack. The difference in a rescue situation is that the can man will need to assist the irons man and ECC to establish a water supply.

Summary:>>Water supply>>Stretch 1st Line>>Nozzle Man

6.1.4-Irons Man

The job of the irons man in a rescue situation is similar to that of the can man. He will assist the ECC in establishing a water supply and then become the 1st back-up on the attack line.

Summary:>>Water Supply>>1st Back Up

6.2 Squad 2542

6.2.1- Squad OIC

Under direction of the incident OIC, the rescue OIC will supervise the operation of conducting a search and rescue. The rescue OIC will make the determination as to what equipment and tactics will be used.

6.2.2-Squad Driver

Under supervision of the squad OIC, will conduct a search and rescue. Any applicable vent, enter, search tactics should be employed if necessary.

Any additional firefighter's roles and responsibilities will be determined by the Squad OIC.

Sec. 7-Additional Arriving Companies

Even under the best of circumstances, the fireground can be a very chaotic and stressful situation. Initial tasks may not be completed in a reasonable amount of time and may require more resources to complete. Those tasks not completed may be assigned to 2nd in companies. The MABAS book may be utilized to assist the OIC in determining what additional resources may be required.

7.1- 2nd Due Engine

The primary role of the 2nd in engine will be to secure either a secondary source of water and attack line, or to simply secure a secondary attack line from their pumper. This is to ensure a steady supply of water in case of failure of the 1st in engine's capability to pump water or a failure of the initial supply of water.

Summary:>>Primary tasks>>Secondary Water Supply>>Relief of First Attack Line Crew>>Primary Search

7.2- 3rd Due Engine

Any task as designated by the OIC

Examples:>> Primary search >> Secondary search >> Relief of 1st attack line

7.3- 1st Due Ladder

The first in ladder shall stage their truck in front of the building to facilitate any truck company operations as needed. If there are no immediate truck company operations required, the ladder truck's firefighters shall serve as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The first due ladder should otherwise be assigned one of the standard LOVERS-U truck company functions.

>>Laddering>>Overhaul>>Ventilation>>Forcible Entry>>Rescue>>Salvage>>Utility control

Sec. 8-Hose Lines

8.1 Basic Attack Lines

The objective of the attack hose line choice is to provide enough GPM flow to overcome the volume of fire being produced, or adequate flow to effectively cool and protect exposures.

The 1 ¾" inch attack line can be used for most small fires (i.e., one or two rooms in a residential fire). The company officer however should order 1 ¾", 2", or 2 ½" attack lines for a larger volume of fire.

8.2 Nozzle Selection

The factors involved in the choice of attack lines should not be limited to hose diameter and or length. The nozzle should also be considered as a factor for hose line selection.

8.3 Basic Attack Hose Line Placement

When operating in the offensive attack mode, attack hose lines of adequate volume should be advanced inside the fire building in order to put water on the fire and to control access to halls, stairways, or other vertical and horizontal channels through which people and fire may travel.

- The first stream should be placed between the fire and persons endangered by it.
- When no life is endangered, the first stream should be placed between the fire and the most severe exposure or unburned areas.
- A second hose line should protect a secondary means of egress (always bear in mind the presence of Fire personnel operating in opposing positions).
- Additional hose lines should cover other critical areas or when covered, back up in place hose lines.
- Whenever possible, crews should position hose lines in a manner and direction that supports rescue activities, begins confinement, protects exposures, and controls loss.

When a change from offensive to a defensive operation occurs, crews should pull hand lines out of the fire building only if safe to do so. Do not delay exit from the building for the sake of salvaging a few feet of hose and a nozzle if conditions are deteriorating rapidly, unless the line is needed for crew protection during exit operations.

Sec. 9-Status Reports

The OIC shall make regular status reports over the radio throughout the initial stages of the fire. These reports will serve as a resource to all firefighters on the scene and to other firefighters responding to the scene as to what the current status of the fire is. The reports shall be given every 10 minutes until a report of "under control" is made. The following status phrases shall be used:
"Fire is doubtful at this time": All crews are working on extinguishment and control has not yet been made
"Rescue in progress": All or some crews are working at making a rescue

“Fire is knocked down”: Bulk of fire is under control and hot spots are yet to be extinguished

“Under control”: All fire has been controlled and search for extension has been made. Salvage and overhaul should begin at this time.

Sec. 10-Investigation Of Fire

The Ohio Revised Code (section 3737.24 Investigation of fire) requires that all major fires be investigated to determine whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design. The investigation shall be commenced within two days, not including Sunday, if the fire occurred on that day.

The OIC shall notify SERT-FIU to begin the process of investigation. Middleburg Heights FD FIU members should be consulted if possible for further information.