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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Ventilation**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To aid the incident commander with performing ventilation size up and provide the options available for ventilation.

**Procedure:**

**Ventilation Size up**

* Ventilation size up requires evaluation of the following conditions:
	+ What type of building is involved?
	+ Where is the location and the extent of the fire?
	+ What are the life hazards involved?
	+ Is ventilation required and what type of ventilation would be beneficial?
* The methods of ventilation that are available are:
	+ Horizontal
	+ Vertical
	+ Forced (positive pressure)

**Ventilation Strategy**

* One Story Dwelling:
	+ Open windows ahead of the attack line crew as the fire is extinguished.
* Two Story Dwelling:
	+ Open window near the attack crew on the 1st and 2nd floors and then open the remainder of the 2nd floor windows.
* Attic Fires:
	+ Attic fires should be attacked from the interior and ventilation should initially be completed by pulling and removing the windows and louvers at each end of the attic area.
	+ If further ventilation is required, vertical ventilation should be performed.
* Basement Fires:
	+ In a residential basement, ventilate all available openings to the outside as well as the first floor doors and windows.
* Industrial/Commercial Fires:
	+ Ventilation should start on the roof by utilizing natural openings (e.g., scuttle doors or skylights) and then perform other vertical ventilation as required.
	+ The potential of roof collapse should be considered for certain types of construction.
* Apartment Buildings:
	+ Perform vertical ventilation above service cores and stair shafts.

**Vertical Ventilation**

* Firefighters should work in teams of at least two to perform vertical ventilation and all personnel shall wear self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
* All personnel operating in the area of the ventilation opening or if conditions are poor on the roof, firefighters shall utilize SCBA.
* Personnel shall determine the stability of the roof by sounding out the roof prior to stepping off the ladder. If the structural stability is in question, report the condition to the Incident Commander and do not allow any personnel to step onto the roof.
* No personnel shall be assigned to perform vertical ventilation on a roof under the following conditions:
	+ An incident in the DEFENSIVE mode.
	+ A building with truss roof construction where it is suspected that the truss area is being attacked by the fire.

**Horizontal Ventilation**

* Whenever a firefighter removes a window or door during ventilation from the exterior, the firefighter shall search the immediate area around the window or door with a tool from the exterior for potential victims.

**Positive Pressure Ventilation**

* Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) can be utilized in the overhaul stage of the fire to lower carbon monoxide levels and to improve visibility.
* PPV must be properly considered against the desired result. Premature pressurizing of the fire building can cause fire spread toward victims or increase property damage.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

West Redding (CT) VFD – GOG 6-OF-611 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC