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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** | | |

**Commercial Building Fire Response**

***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 provide guidelines for fighting fires in two typical commercial fires:

* Common attic/cockloft fires (strip stores and taxpayers)
* Light manufacturing

**Procedure:**

**Common Attic/Cockloft**

* This structure has a common attic or cockloft over one or a number of stores The roof construction is usually one of four styles:
  + Flat roof
  + Inverted roof
  + Metal deck and bar joist
  + Bowstring truss
* The first arriving engine should attack the storefront involved in fire and extinguish the main body of fire.
* A primary search of the fire store should be completed.
* The second arriving engine shall perform the appropriate water supply option designated by the first arriving engine.
* Once water supply is completed, the second engine crew shall gain access into the second store from the fire store.
* Once access is gained, a hose line shall be advanced and an inspection hole will be made into the ceiling to check for extension.
* If there are stores on either side of the fire store, access should be initially gained to the side that has the greatest exposure risk or to the side that shows signs of fire extension.
* As soon as possible, access should be gained into the second store on the opposite side and check for extension.
* Vertical ventilation should be performed by cutting a hole as close to the seat of the fire as can be done safely.
* If the fire has self-vented, strip cuts should made on each side of the separating walls to isolate the fire.
* If the attic/cockloft has truss construction and the fire has extended, no personnel shall operate on or under the roof. If extension does occur, operations should concentrate on protecting exposures arid designating the fire store as a loss.

**Taxpayer Cellar Fire**

* First arriving engine shall advance an attack line to the cellar via the interior stairs.
* Second arriving engine shall provide water supply and then advance a second line to the interior stairs to protect the stairs and provide an escape route to the initial attack line.
* A ventilation hole should be cut in the floor in the front of the store under a window and the window shall be removed.
* Vertical extension should be assessed as soon as manpower becomes available.

**Light Manufacturing**

* First arriving engine should proceed to the front or office section of the building unless a more obvious access point is available.
* Protection of the office section should be a priority because of valuable records and it can be an area of safe refuge for employees evacuating from the manufacturing area.
* A primary search should be performed as the attack line advances and a head count should be obtained from the manager or owner as soon as possible.
* The second arriving engine shall provide water supply. Due to the large and heavy fire load in this occupancy, dual supply hose lines should be laid.
* Upon completion of water supply, the second engine crew will advance a hose line to support the initial attack line.
* The IC should make consideration for additional resources as soon as possible and switching to a defensive mode should be anticipated.
* Vertical ventilation shall be completed by cutting an 8’ x 8’ hole and/or removing skylights.
* Truss roof construction is common in this type of occupancy and if the truss area is involved in fire no personnel shall operate on or under the roof.
* Relief for the initial attack crews should be considered as soon as manpower becomes available.

***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-616 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC