



Standard Operating Guideline	
SOG Name:	Residential Structure Fires
SOG Number:	100.6
Standard:	TBD
Guideline Owner:	Emergency Operations – Incident Operations
Implementation Date:	June 1, 2021
Date of Last Revision:	June 1, 2021
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**PURPOSE:** This guideline is to establish direction for members arriving at residential structure fires during an initial alarm assignment. During a structure fire, many units converge at the scene rapidly. This guideline specifies the duties of arriving companies to effectively accomplish the operational strategies of life safety, incident stabilization and property conservation.

**A. GENERAL**

This Structural Fire Guideline is provided as a strong set of guidelines to be followed for residential structure fires. It minimizes the confusion for arriving companies at structure fires by identifying the roles and responsibilities that companies should perform to effectively and efficiently complete operational strategies. However, if conditions exist that require deviation from these established guidelines, the officer-in-charge of the company may choose to make a change to the guidelines. If actions are changed, the officer must communicate the change over the radio and be able to justify the deviation from standard protocol to their supervisor. Company Officers shall identify their arrival at a structural fire and briefly and precisely explain their duties. **Do not report to Command if you have a pre-arrival assignment as indicated in this guideline or verbal orders from the Incident Commander.**

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> ARRIVING ENGINE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> arriving engine at a residential structure fire shall perform the following duties. **If 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Unit is a Truck Company, the unit shall perform the duties of a 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine. However, when the first engine arrives, the company must assist Truck with attack operations. The battalion chief will assign one of the arriving engine companies to perform Truck duties until the incident can be further evaluated.**

1. Approach and size up – Set up on fire front, usually Side A<sup>1</sup>. Remember to leave adequate space for arriving Truck Company.
2. Communicate a Brief Initial Report (BIR-All Six Points)
3. Declare/announce mode: (Investigative, Offensive, or Defensive )
4. Declare/announces “Working Fire” if incident meets criteria
5. Layout going in. ***Better to be safe than sorry!—Communicates water supply needs***
  
6. Perform SLICE-RS
  - Sequential Actions
    - i. Size-Up—quick 360 of the structure w/ Thermal Imager(TI)

<sup>1</sup> Use phonetic alphabet: A=Alpha, B=Beta, C=Charlie, D=Delta, E=echo, etc...

- ii. Locate—the fire
  - iii. Identify—and control flow path
  - iv. Cool—the space from safest location
  - v. Extinguish—the fire
- Actions of Opportunity
  - i. Rescue
  - ii. Salvage
7. Attack the fire (offensive or defensive)
8. Start search and rescue operations from point of entry to fire area
9. Account for all personnel (PAR)
10. Keep Command and Division/Group Supervisors updated on status frequently using the CAN report format: Conditions, Actions, & Needs.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARRIVING ENGINE**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> arriving engine at a residential structure fire shall perform the following duties:

1. Based on Mode established by first arriving unit:
  - a. **“Investigative”**: Level I staging at hydrant approximately one block away. Announce “Staging” and location: “intersection of Main & Bracewell” or “3300 block of Ross Clark Circle”
  - b. **“Offensive”**: Approach and communicate over radio (Engine #, on scene, second-in engine duties). Follow steps 2-13 of this section.
  - c. **“Defensive”**: Approach and communicate over radio (Engine #, on scene, second-in engine duties). Follow steps 2-13 of this section.
2. Ensure an adequate water supply for first unit. Provide supply line, if needed. Consider reverse supply hose lay.
3. Ensure that all residential sprinklers have been supplied if necessary
  - a) Sprinkler Systems- PDP<sup>2</sup>=150 psi (pump and maintain)
  - b) Communicate location of FDC (or confirm if given) and set-up
  
4. RIT (2 members completely turned out) pulls a pre-connect handline (preferably a secondary water supply), positions outside IDLH and performs required duties. Once RIT is in position to perform rescue operations, a RIT member shall advise Command (“RIT In Place”). The officer of the apparatus will assume the role of initial Incident Safety Officer and perform tasks specifically related to ensuring safe operations in accordance with SOG 100.2 “Incident Safety Officer (ISO) Program”. In the event of RIT activation, the ISO will become the leader of the Rapid Intervention Team. When resources allow, the IC will establish a Dedicated RIT that does not perform any ancillary duties. The RIT may perform ancillary duties as long as their primary responsibility of monitoring interior crews within the IDLH is not compromised. The RIT must remain outside the

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<sup>2</sup> Pump Discharge Pressure

- IDLH and be within 50’ of the structure. **If the RIT is appointed as “dedicated” by the IC, then the RIT shall not perform other ancillary duties.**
5. Company Officer immediately assumes the role of Incident Safety Officer until relieved, and **shall be fully turned out, prepared to be the RIT Group Supervisor and enter IDLH.**
  6. The Incident Safety Officer and one RIT member will complete an “all sides” (360°) view of the incident
  7. After completing a “360”, the Incident Safety Officer communicates report to command (confirms operational mode, conditions, exposures, utilities, etc.)
  8. Safety Officer secures scene with fire line tape using the police, ambulance companies, or additional personnel at scene.
    - a. Yellow for hazard zone. Firefighters may go into
    - b. Red for “do not enter” areas: collapse zones; live electrical lines, etc.  
NO ONE GOES IN.
  9. Develops and implements a comprehensive safety action plan.
  10. The safety officer will take incident pictures when requested by the Incident Commander.
  11. The Safety Officer role may be passed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Engine Captain if staffing is a problem or when 2<sup>nd</sup> arriving engine is assigned other duties. If safety is passed, both companies, IC and responding Battalion Chief must acknowledge this change.
  12. Account for all Personnel (PAR)
  13. Keep Command and Division/Group Supervisors updated on status frequently using the CAN report format: Conditions, Actions, & Needs.

**D. 3<sup>rd</sup> ARRIVING ENGINE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> arriving engine at a residential structure fire shall perform the following duties:

1. Based on Mode established by first arriving unit:
  - a. “Investigative”: Level I staging at hydrant approximately one block away. Announce “Staging” and location: “intersection of Main & Bracewell” or “3300 block of Ross Clark Circle” “Offensive”: Approach and communicate over radio (Engine #, on scene, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engine Duties). Follow steps 2-7 of this section
  - b. “Defensive”: Approach and communicate over radio (Engine #, on scene, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engine Duties). Follow steps 2-7 of this Section
2. Assist with search & rescue, if directed by command. Report in to division or group leader
3. Provide fire attack, backup or exposure coverage as directed by command. **NEVER OPERATE OPPOSING HOSE LINES!** Report in to division or group leader.
4. Control utilities, performs ventilation, salvage and overhaul if Truck Company is not available or when assigned other duties.

5. Driver of 3<sup>rd</sup> Engine should report to Command Post to assist IC (pick up passports, scribe the incident, etc.). IC will make this determination based on need.
6. Account for all personnel (PAR)
7. Keep Command and Division/Group Supervisors updated on status frequently using the CAN report format: Conditions, Actions, & Needs.

**E. TRUCK COMPANY**

The arriving Truck Company at a residential structure fire shall perform the following duties:

1. Position apparatus as close to structure as possible for use of aerial, ground ladders and other equipment and communicate arrival by radio.
2. Conduct primary search and rescue, coordinate with all previous and ongoing searches as not to duplicate efforts and waste time. (Use thermal imaging if available).
3. Provide thorough and complete ventilation. Use the technique selected by Command or confirm the method preferred before starting.
4. Control all service utilities. Emphasis will be on **Electricity** and **Gas** due to danger involved. Shut off **Water** and any other utilities as needed.
5. Provide interior lighting support
6. Check for fire extension
7. Manage salvage operations
8. Account for all personnel (PAR)
9. Keep Command and Division/Group Supervisors updated on status frequently using the CAN report format: Conditions, Actions, & Needs.

**Note: When conducting aerial operations, one engine will be assigned to assist Truck Company personnel. This will be accomplished by dispatching a 4<sup>th</sup> Engine Company to the incident location.**

**NOTE: If 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Unit is a Truck Company, the unit shall perform the duties of a 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine (See section B of this SOG). However, when the first engine arrives, the company must assist Truck with attack operations. The battalion chief will assign one of the arriving engine companies to perform Truck duties until the incident can be further evaluated.**

**F. BATTALION CHIEF**

The arriving Battalion Chief at all structure fires shall perform the following duties:

1. Parks at a safe and reasonable distance to the alarm. A scene view is preferable, but not a requirement. The Battalion Chief will establish a fixed Command Post site at their vehicle. Always attempt to get a 360 view of operational area. This may be accomplished by driving around the structure before assuming Command.

2. While enroute and the first unit has arrived on scene, will ensure a mode is declared: **Investigative, Offensive, or Defensive**. Also ensures “working fire” is declared if necessary.
3. Be mindful of wind direction, hilly terrain and growth/spread of the situation. Never park in the collapse zone.
4. Obtain a briefing (CAN Report) from Command (face-to-face preferably – radio acceptable) that includes:
  - a) Situation status
  - b) Resource status
  - c) Action plan
  - d) Current outcomes
  - e) Any and all other pertinent information.
  - f) **Evaluate at 10-minute intervals: Confirm mode (Investigative, Offensive, Defensive); at second interval, complete PAR<sup>3</sup>, confirm operational mode and update**
5. Once briefing is completed, assume Command and announce same over assigned Tac Channel.
6. Revise, adjust or continue the Incident Action Plan based on CAN reports provided by other units
7. Strategic orientated: RECEO-VS<sup>4</sup>
8. Evaluate at 10-minute intervals: Confirm mode (Investigative, Offensive, Defensive); complete a PAR; and update
9. Account for all personnel with passport system
10. Track and record resource movement and use (written documentation)
11. Request assistance (if needed) as soon as possible
12. Establishes Divisions and Groups to create a logical and manageable incident (expand command as incident dictates).
13. Work with officers to ensure that we have a complete and comprehensive Safety Plan.
14. Selects an assistant (recorder) from most logical source (on-duty, staff officers, call back members, etc.). All incidents require on-site written tracking of resources, assignments, personnel accountability, etc.

**G. DUTY OFFICER**

The arriving Duty Officer at all structure fires shall perform the following duties:

1. Responds to all working fires for residential, commercial, second alarm incidents and anytime when both battalions are assigned to operational responses:
  - a) Must be notified by telephone after 9 p.m. and during weekends by the non-responding Battalion Chief or Communications (Battalion Chiefs must ensure a Duty Officer has been notified).
  - b) Communicates on Fire Dispatch until arrival on scene, then switches to assigned Tac Channel
2. Supports incident command:

<sup>3</sup> Ref: SOG 100.1 *Incident Command System* and 100.4, *Personnel Accountability, RIT & Emergency Evacuation*

<sup>4</sup> Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul—Ventilation, Salvage

- a) Ensure **all** fire fighter safety issues are being addressed
  - b) Assists with documentation and accountability
  - c) Confirms proper policies are being enforced/used
  - d) Assists with developing strategies and tactics
  - e) Challenges and confirms any and all decisions to insure that the best decisions are made
  - f) Continuously conducts a Risk Assessment (risk/benefit analysis for L.I.P<sup>5</sup>)
3. Coordinates with non-responding Battalion Chief that the City is appropriately covered
  4. When the incident is declared under control, the Duty Officer shall support the Customer Service Group/Unit by:
    - a) Ensuring that Customer Service is being handled to the best of the DFD's ability
    - b) Assuming the role of Customer Service "Advocate"

**H. REHAB 2**

The arriving Rehab unit at all structure fires shall perform the following duties:

1. Parks at least 500' away from the hazard zone and/or Command Post
2. Announces on Dispatch Channel that they have arrived on scene and are switching to the assigned Tac channel
3. Advises Command of arrival on location (face to face).
4. Provides for the proper rehab based on environmental conditions (i.e. heating for winter, cooling for summer, etc) See Ops SOG 120.5, Incident Rehab for specifics for Rehab Group/unit
5. Sets up unit to replace air cylinders
6. Ensure that all air supply needs are met at each incident

**I. Staff Officer (Fire Prevention, Training, Services Support, etc)**

1. Parks at least 500' away from the hazard zone and/or Command Post
2. Announces on Dispatch Channel that they have arrived on scene and are switching to the assigned Tac channel
3. Upon arrival at scene, reports to Command with appropriate level of PPE and accountability name tag, and checks in with IC (face to face).
4. Receives assignment (use as radio call sign if possible. e.g. Division 4, Exposure B, etc) and supports as necessary
5. If a staff officer/chief arrives on scene of a residential fire before other units they shall perform the following:
  - a. Ensure their vehicle is not blocking access to the incident location or hydrant
  - b. Identifies and communicates location of hydrant, if possible
  - c. Issues B.I.R.
  - d. Declares Mode (Investigative, Offensive, Defensive)
  - e. Declares "working fire" if necessary

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<sup>5</sup> Life safety, Incident stabilization, Property conservation

- f. Sizes up incident and relays info to communications

**J. Structure Fire Benchmarks**

The Incident Priority Benchmarks for a residential structure fire shall be as follows:

1. **"All Clear"**
2. **"Under Control"**
3. **"Loss Stopped"**
4. **"Water on the Fire"(Fire incidents only)**
5. **"Fire Knock-Down"(Fire incidents only)**

The Benchmarks "Water on the Fire" and "Fire Knock-Down" may fall in anywhere among the other incident benchmarks.. Example: "Water on Fire" can either proceed or supersede "All Clear", it only matters which activity takes place first. "Fire Knock Down" is also benchmarked whenever it occurs.

**SECTION 2**

The Incident Commander will use these benchmarks for incident management and communicating the completion of the incident priorities. The benchmarks will be announced from the Incident Commander to Division or Group Supervisors and units operating on the assigned radio frequency. If the incident is operating on Tac 1, the Incident Commander will transmit the benchmark on Tac 1. Once a benchmark is achieved, the IC will notify Communications to page out the incident benchmarks.

**SECTION 3**

The "**All Clear**" benchmark indicates the **primary search** is complete. In situations where fire units are investigating a smell of smoke, excessive heat, or other conditions where it is safe for building occupants, the "**All Clear**" may be announced with people inside the building. When the building is fully involved and completion of the primary search is impossible, the IC should state **"We will be unable to obtain an "All Clear" at this incident."**

**SECTION 4**

The "**Under Control**" benchmark will be announced at all incidents. It indicates that the incident is stable and will not extend to other properties, uninvolved areas, or require additional resources. This benchmark will be transmitted to the Communications Center by radio according to standard radio procedures, and a request to page this out should also be made. It is recommended to complete a roll call PAR following the achievement of this benchmark at a working fire.

**SECTION 5**

The "**Loss Stopped**" benchmark indicates that property damage due to heat, smoke, and water is stopped.

## **SECTION 6**

The “**Water on the Fire**” benchmark shall be given as soon as water is applied to the burning object. This time shall be recorded so that it can be included in the NFIRS Report.

## **SECTION 7**

The “**Fire Knock-Down**” benchmark shall be given when a noticeable positive results on fire production has been established with the use of extinguishing agents.

## **SECTION 8**

Division/Group/Branch supervisors shall use the benchmarks to report on the accomplishment of tactical objectives in their functional areas.

(Signature on File)

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Fire Chief

DOTHAN FIRE DEPARTMENT