

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2705
	SECTION: 2700	INCIDENT COMMAND FIREGROUND OPERATIONS
	SUBJECT: LOW RISE/HIGH RISE OPERATIONS	

Purpose: To provide an operational guide to managing an incident in a large structure. To provide a method for initiating the county low rise/high rise plan in a large commercial structure.

Scope: To guide and assist personnel in the consistent development of an organized and efficient fireground when operating at incidents involving large or complex structures.

Procedure:

1. Incident Command System (ICS) Organization

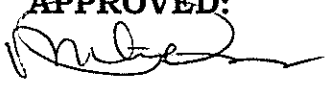
The ICS has specific organizational models that apply to mass casualty, hazardous material and low/high rise incidents. Scotts Valley Fire Protection District recognizes these models and has adopted them as they are presented in the *Santa Cruz County Fire Agencies Operations Manual*. All members of the district shall familiarize themselves with organization plans, associated job descriptions, and duties.

2. Utilization of the Low/High Rise Plan

An incident in a large low rise will normally require a substantial commitment of mutual aid resources to stabilize the situation in an acceptable timeframe. ICS creates a mechanism for the incident commander to control the number of people and resources in an efficient and effective manner. Immediate use of the system will assure an efficient fireground in which every firefighter has an assignment and each member is utilized to the maximum.

3. Pre-determined Assignments

The quantity of personnel in a first alarm precludes us from being able to fill out a complete ICS organization and fight fire at the same time. Utilization of established assignments for first-arriving units will allow coverage of priority ICS positions

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which maximize the safety of personnel and provide an opportunity to perform an aggressive attack. As mutual aid resources arrive, support for initial crews and the filling of needed ICS positions should be filled.

The initial positions to be filled by first-arriving companies shall be:

- Command
- Attack
- Lobby/Systems
- Base

*** Initial Attack ***

Company	ICS Position	Radio Call	Assignment
Duty Chief	Incident Commander	IC	Command/Control
1st Due Engine	Fire Attack Group	Fire Attack Group	Access/Rescue Fire Attack
2nd Due Unit	Reports to Fire Attack	Unit Designator	Assists Attack
3rd Due Engine	Lobby Group	Lobby Group	Systems, Support
4th Due Unit	Base	Base	Base

4. Attack

Attack group's responsibility is to gain access to the structure, rescue persons, find the fire and initiate an attack.

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Access to many commercial structures has been simplified, to a degree, by the placement of Knox boxes on the exterior of many of the buildings. The Knox box should contain a master key for access and security access ability to interior doors (key, security card, etc.). Elevator keys, preplan, and/or hazardous material information may also be included. The fire attack group's first priority is to locate and secure the contents of the Knox box. After access, alarm inspection will confirm area of fire and allow crews to silence the alarm bells so as to improve communication and lower the stress level. The attack group will then proceed towards attacking and containing the fire.

5. Lobby, Systems, Staging

Most of the buildings are limited to three stories in height, thus, some of the logistical problems associated with high rise are simplified. Staging, stairwell support, and lobby can easily be grouped together near the lobby area or near the point of entrance into the structure. A single group can easily manage all of these initial functions (lobby, staging, systems), thereby exercising an effective control on the flow of resources in and out of the building and providing the needed support to fire attack.

6. Base

Base will be established at all incidents and be located so as to provide the exterior staging of resources with a direct route to the entrance of the structure (lobby) while at the same time being removed enough so as to limit congestion and exposure to falling debris.

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7. Operations

Utilization of the 1st Alarm assignment consisting of two (2) engines is recommended to be as follows:

- A. 1st-In Company: Recommended to be fire attack
(A complete duty list can be found in the County Operations Manual.)

Primary Responsibilities:

- Initiate rescue for persons in imminent danger
- Attack fire to effect containment and, if possible, extinguishment

Duties:

- Obtain lock keys
- Check local alarm panel for location of fire
- Check status of HVAC
- Water supply for attack
- Initiate hose lay
- Carry portable radio, keys, forcible entry tools, hosepack
- Attack fire, perform rescue if needed

- B. 2nd-In Company

Primary Responsibilities:

- Support FDC, using a separate water supply from fire attack (if possible)

Duties:

- Assure water supply to building system
- Report to fire attack and assist and support as required

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C. Duty Chief: Incident Commander

- Establish command post
- Establish base location
- Develop strategy
- Initiate plan
- Order resources
- Sit/stat Re/stat
- Evaluate

8. Additional Resources

As resources arrive, either in the form of volunteers, off duty or mutual aid, the personnel can be assigned from base to the area in need. The lobby group supervisor will need help with staging and systems. The building may need to be divided into divisions in the case of extension or complex operations. Anticipate resources for salvage, ventilation and attack relief. A fire in a large structure will require a large contingency of resources. The division/group supervisor should request additional needed resources and release surplus resources as needed.

- Control elevators
- Control HVAC and check enunciator panels
- Maintain log of companies entering and exiting the building
- Establish area for staging
- Stockpile equipment in organized manner
- Establish areas for rehabilitation's and fresh crews
- Assign personnel to move needed equipment to fire area

9. Pre-Fire Planning

Pre-fire plans of large structures are paramount to a successful fire operation. A comprehensive understanding of the floor plan, utility locations, system controls sites and occupancy hazards will assist in the overall operations by increasing efficiency and safety. Every plan should be reviewed for accuracy on a yearly basis.

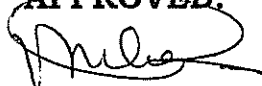
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Crews shall physically tour these structures when reviewing the preplans for updating.

10. Training

All personnel should be well versed in the county plan for high/low rise structures. Knowledge of the ICS positions used in the plan, their responsibilities, who they report to, and who reports to them are a required element in making a successful operation. All crews shall take part in a yearly low/high rise drill.

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