

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.245	<b>Effective Date:</b>	2/8/2022
<b>Title:</b>	High Rise Fires	<b># of pages:</b>	4
<b>Category:</b>	Fire Ground Operations	<b>Classification:</b>	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines to familiarize fire department personnel in the placement and use of apparatus, equipment and personnel at high rise fires.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

### **Tactical Priorities**

- Establish command system
- Call additional resources required
- Rescue
- Fire control
- Control building air handling systems
- Establish support system

### **1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Company**

- Assume Command
- Do size-up and give the initial report
- Investigation, rescue and/or fire attack
- Check conditions of the staging floor on the way by (1 or 2 floors below the fire floor)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Arriving Company**

- Establish lobby control
- Responsible for:
  - Control of building environment
  - Moving equipment and personnel to the interior staging area.
  - Restrict the use of elevators
  - Liaison with building maintenance personnel
- Pump operator will supply the sprinkler/standpipe system

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Arriving Company**

- Take hose, SCBA, air bottles, hand tools, etc.
- Establish an interior staging area on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor below the fire floor, depending on building and fire location.

### **Interior Staging Area**

- One or two floors below the fire
- Is a reserve and rehab area

- Anticipate needs, maintaining one company on a line requires two companies for back-up at the interior staging area.
- May require the utilization of more than one floor.
- Anticipate relocating if conditions warrant.

### **Base (Exterior/Main) Staging Area**

- Area 200' from building used for parking apparatus, whose companies are committed to the operation or are in a standby status.
- If using a street, park apparatus diagonally
- Companies assigned should strip their equipment; SCBA, hose lines, tools, spare bottles, etc. and report to the lobby control point. All personnel should carry something.

### **Stairwell Support**

- The company assigned to stairwell support will place a firefighter at every one or two floors.
- That firefighter will move all equipment between those two floors so all equipment is moved from the lobby to the interior staging area.

### **Command Post**

- Command location shall be identified.
- Located at least 200' from incident structure if major fire conditions exist.

### **Command System**

- Incident Command: Overall Incident Commander
- Operations: Close proximity to the fire floor and interior staging. In charge of fire ground operations.
- Division Officers: Officer in charge of a specific floor or function.
- Interior Staging: Moves crews and equipment from staging to fire then back to a rehab area.
- Base Staging Officer: Moves crews and equipment to the fire building.
- Staging Officer: Keeps one or more alarm assignment in the area, to be assigned to the incident upon request of the fire ground commander. Request additional companies from dispatch.
- Lobby Control Officer: Responsible for controlling all activities and functions in the assigned area. Access to stairways, elevators, HVAC equipment, alarm and communication equipment, etc.
- Communications: Operations to divisions/groups will be face to face when practical. Operations to Command should be on a different OPS channel.

### **General**

- First in companies may have to carry all equipment to the fire area.
- Relief crews assigned to the interior staging will not carry equipment once the stairwell support is established.

- Fatigue of firefighters in high rise operations is rapid. Effective time on the fire floor is 10 to 15 minutes.
- The engine supplying the sprinkler/standpipe systems should reverse lay a LDH line to a hydrant outside of the 200' danger zone.
- If elevators are to be utilized:
  - First establish that there is no fire or heavy smoke conditions in the elevators shafts.
  - Use elevators only to the floor below the fire and then use the stairwell.
  - If there are any doubts at all, use the stairs

## Considerations

### Rescue/Evacuations

- Total evacuation may not be practical due to time requirement, manpower and impeding of fire operations.
- May require removal of glass. Ground area must be cleared of all personnel, victims, spectators, etc. Duct tape windows prior to breaking if possible.
- Vent top and bottom of stairwells to provide safe passage of occupants.

### Salvage

- Possible water damage to all floors
- Use sawdust dikes, restrooms, floor drains, for water removal
- Do not use elevator shafts.
- Use the stairwells as a last resort.

### Emergency Medical

- One team (2 people) should be assigned to the interior staging area to monitor firefighters.
- Set up a triage area beyond danger zone in a location with access in and out for ambulance traffic.
- If necessary institute mass casualty SOG

### Pre-Assigned Level 2 Staging Areas

All second alarm, or greater, apparatus will report to these areas unless otherwise directed.

- **Breakwater Condo (Midrise):** SMCC parking lot
- **SMCC NRH Dorm:** SMCC parking lot
- **99 Preble Street:** SMCC parking lot
- **425 Broadway:** Hannaford parking lot
- **10 Soule Street:** Hannaford parking lot
- **Mall Hotels:** Maine Mall parking lot

## 3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilson".

James P. Wilson  
Fire Chief