

BUTTE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS

POLICY - PROCEDURES GUIDE FOR HIGH-RISE FIREFIGHTING

I. PURPOSE

This Operational Procedure adopts, by reference, recognized standard operating procedures/guidelines for Phoenix Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and Fire Scope Field Operations Guide guidelines recommended for use on high-rise structure fires.

II. TERMINOLOGY

There are several terms within the document requiring clarification of terminology:

- A. In California the Incident Command System will continue to be referenced to as “ICS” rather than “Incident Management System”.
- B. California clear text terminology is “at scene” not “on scene”.
- C. California utilizes “Division/Group” rather than “Sector” as tactical level management units.
- D. The term “Air Attack” has been changed to “Air Tactics” to facilitate all risk use and is referred to as “Air Tac” on the radio.

III. POLICY

- A. The document entitled “Model Procedures Guide for High-Rise Fire Fighting”, First Edition, published by Fire Protection Publications (IFSTA) at Oklahoma State University, was, in the past, applied to all Fire Departments and Fire Dispatch Centers in Butte County on all high-rise structure fires. The document is a basis for most SOGs in California but did not reflect the staffing levels in many departments in Butte County. There for, this policy was reviewed, compared to other departments that routinely operate on high rise fires, and modify to meet the needs of Butte County.
- B. Each staffed fire station shall be provided with a copy this policy and the Butte County High- Rise Guide.

IV. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- A. In order to provide sufficient personnel at scene to manage a confirmed high-rise fire, the Incident Commander or First Responding Chief Officer will strongly consider immediately requesting a Second and Third Alarm (duplications of the First Alarm). If a Safety Officer is not included on the original dispatch on must be added to the alarm.
- B. Priorities for use of volunteer personnel will normally be:
1. Firefighter accountability
 2. Stairwell support
 3. Full staffing of truck companies
 4. Incident Base activities
 5. Aide to Incident Commander
- C. Because of the high level of utilization of SCBA cylinders, priority will be given to quickly bringing a Breathing Support Unit to scene.
- D. Because of the size of the incident one tactical net will quickly become overwhelmed. A second tactical net and command net should be requested by the Incident Commander as soon as possible for fire ground operations. A third tactical net should be requested for the RIC Team.
- E. Off duty personnel checking in at scene will report to the Base Manager.
- F. At least one annual multi-company drill shall cover high-rise fires. The drill will include a site visit to a target high-rise with a tower and/or simulator drill targeted to that high-rise. Whenever possible, volunteer and Second Alarm resources will be included in the drill.
- G. Although specific situations and resource availability may require adjustments by the Incident Commander, the following are typical first alarm assignments:
1. First Arriving Engine- The first (1) arriving engine will establish command and water supply. The Company Officer will establish command while the other personnel on the engine will facilitate the connection of the hose to the Fire Department Connection (FDC).

2. Second Arriving Engine- All personnel to fire attack or investigation. Minimum equipment is one high-rise pack, one set of Irons, extra SCBA bottles.
3. First Arriving Truck- Aerial rescue or fire attack operations with engine companies, or, if those functions not needed, ventilation
4. Third Arriving Engine- All personnel to fire attack or investigation. Minimum equipment is one high-rise pack, one set of Irons, extra SCBA bottles.
5. Fourth Arriving Engine- The fourth (4) due engine shall establish Lobby GRP. Lobby GRP must maintain accountability for attack companies and their method of ascent. The Lobby GRP will also fill the role of Systems GRP till a Systems GRP can be established by the IC

First Arriving Chief Officer- Assumes command; First arriving Company Officer becomes Division Supervisor on fire floor.

First Ten Arriving Volunteer Firefighters- First Volunteer Officer reports to Incident Commander to coordinate volunteer assignments and accountability. Second Volunteer Officer and two Volunteer Firefighters assigned to second arriving Truck. Third Volunteer Officer and at least two Volunteer Firefighters establish stairwell support.

- H. This evolution allows established crews to work together; provides potential for a quick initial knock-down; assures that nobody travels alone in the building; provides resources to rotate crews and brings essential logistical support into the building.
- G. Second and Third subsequent alarms will bring additional personnel and equipment.