

City of Madison Fire Department
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
Subject: STRUCTURE FIRE OPERATIONS

Effective Date Expiration Date Original Number Revision Number Revision Date

Approved by

Date

310.0.0.0 STRUCTURE FIRE OPERATIONS.

310.1.0.0 PURPOSE.

310.1.1.0 The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline, in coordination with other applicable Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures, is to provide a uniform and coordinated approach for fire ground operations at both reported and actual (“working”) structure fires.

310.2.0.0 SCOPE.

310.2.1.0 The subject matter found in this guideline applies to all personnel of the City of Madison Fire Department, including all fire companies, fire officers, and firefighters, and shall be initiated at all incidents involving structure fires.

310.3.0.0 GOALS and OBJECTIVES.

310.3.1.0 **Do No Harm.** The first step in preserving lives and property is to take no action which will further endanger citizens or other firefighters, and which will not result in any unnecessary damage to property.

310.3.2.0 **Act Safely.** Compliance with all adopted safety rules and policies is of the utmost importance. It is unacceptable to risk the safety of firefighters when there is no chance of saving lives or preventing serious injury.

310.3.3.0 **Act Professionally.** Treat citizens and other firefighters with courtesy and respect.

310.4.0.0 OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES.

- 310.4.1.0
- a. Size-Up.
 - b. Search, Rescue, Ventilation.
 - c. Exposure Protection, Water Supply.
 - d. Suppression, Ventilation, Salvage.
 - e. Property Conservation, Salvage, Overhaul.

310.5.0.0 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY.

310.5.1.0 All personnel involved in fire suppression activities or other hazardous operations shall comply completely with all SOPs governing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protection, etc.

310.5.2.0 All personnel who respond to an incident scene shall comply completely with the Accountability SOP.

310.5.3.0 All personnel who respond to an incident scene shall comply completely with the Incident Command SOP.

310.5.4.0 The Safety Officer, or a designee assigned by the Incident Commander, shall have the authority to order the corrections of any violations of established procedures affecting safety. Further, the Safety Officer has the authority to issue orders

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countermanding the orders of any other officer at an incident where personnel safety is involved.

310.5.5.0 Command shall assemble a RIT(s) as required by MFD SOP 408.0.0.0. Further details concerning this action are found in that SOP.

310.6.0.0 SEARCH and RESCUE.

310.6.1.0 **Primary Search.** It shall be the standard procedure to extend a primary search into all involved and exposed occupancies in those areas may be safely entered. Results of the primary search shall be immediately reported to the Operations Officer, who shall relay the information to the Incident Commander.

310.6.2.0 **Rescue Operations.** The following listed items are rescue priorities:

- a. The most severely threatened persons.
- b. The largest number of threatened persons.
- c. The remainder of the involved structure(s).
- d. Exposure area(s).
- e. Pets. (If this can be accomplished without risk to personnel.)

310.6.3.0 **Secondary Search.** The Incident Commander and/or the Operations Officer shall order a secondary search when control of the incident is declared.

310.7.0.0 VICTIM(S) DISCOVERY and RECOVERY.

310.7.1.0 Following the discovery of a body, an in-person, verbal report shall be made to the Operations Officer who shall relay this information to the Incident Commander. The radio system should not be used for this report as radio communications may be monitored by the media and citizens utilizing home receivers.

310.7.2.0 The Incident Commander shall notify and request responses from the police and coroner.

310.7.3.0 A body shall only be moved under the following circumstances:

- a. To verify the absence of life.
- b. To prevent additional damage to the body.
- c. At the direction of the coroner or a deputy coroner.

(Reference: MFD SOP 409.0.0.0, Section 409.7.11.0)

310.7.4.0 Personnel shall exercise the utmost caution in order to preserve potential evidence at all incident scenes.

310.8.0.0 FIRE CONTROL.

310.8.1.0 Initial Attack.

a. Initial fire attack actions shall be directed toward supporting primary search and rescue efforts.

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- b. Whenever safely possible, an interior (offensive) attack shall be made in an attempt to stabilize fire conditions.
- c. Interior (offensive) and exterior (defensive) fire attacks shall never be conducted simultaneously.
- d. No hose line having a diameter of less than 1.5 inches shall be utilized for initial fire attack.
- e. Care shall be exercised that fire streams are only directed onto flames and not smoke and areas not involved in fire.
- f. Unless otherwise directed by Command, structure fires shall be attacked from the unburned direction toward the involved area.

310.9.0.0 HOSE PLACEMENT and USE.

310.9.1.0 **First Fire Stream.** Place the first fire stream between the fire and any persons endangered by it; if no persons are threatened, place the first stream between the fire and the most threatened exposure, exterior or interior.

310.9.2.0 **Second Fire Stream.** Place the second fire stream to support the first fire stream (other than for an exterior exposure) or to protect a secondary means of egress.

310.9.3.0 **Additional Fire Streams.** Place additional fire streams as required to support attack positions.

310.10.0.0 INTERIOR STRUCTURE FIRE ATTACK.

310.10.1.0 Unless a life-threatening situation requires immediate rescue operations which could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, an interior (offensive) attack at a working structure fire shall not begin until a minimum of four (4) firefighters have assembled.

310.10.2.0 When only four (4) firefighters are available, two (2) shall be permitted to enter the hazardous (IDLH) area as a team and two (2) shall remain outside the hazardous area in the event that assistance or rescue is required.

310.10.3.0 Interior crews shall be comprised of a minimum of two (2) firefighters who shall remain in constant visual, verbal, or physical contact with each other at all times. Radios shall not be used as a substitute for any of the means listed above due to the possibility of an electronic failure.

310.10.4.0 Interior crews shall utilize radio communications to maintain contact with exterior personnel and Command.

310.10.5.0 The exterior personnel shall be for being aware of the identities of the interior crew(s), their location, and status in coordination with the Accountability Officer.

310.10.6.0 Interior crews shall assume that their hose lines are being supplied by limited tank water which could be exhausted at any moment and shall limit their advance accordingly until they have been notified that a continuous water supply has been established.

310.11.0.0 EXTERIOR FIRE ATTACK.

310.11.1.0 Exterior (defensive) operations shall be conducted when conditions do not permit a safe interior (offensive) fire attack. Exterior and interior modes of fire attack

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shall not be conducted simultaneously, except where exterior operations are utilized solely for exposure protection.

310.11.2.0 Exterior operations shall be directed by Command, who shall first assure that all exposures are being protected before beginning a fire attack on the involved structures.

310.12.0.0 RAPID INTERVENTION.

310.12.1.0 The Rapid Intervention Team(s) shall be initialized following the procedures found in MFD SOP Number 408.0.0.0.

310.13.0.0 REFERENCED SOP's and SOG's.

310.13.1.0 The following MFD SOP's and SOG's are referenced in this Standard Operating Procedure and shall be studied for additional information and requirements:

- 301 – Incident Command.
- 401 – Accountability.
- 406 – Respirator Protection Program.
- 408 – Rapid Intervention.
- 409 – General Fire Ground Operations.

310.14.0.0 REFERENCED STANDARDS.

310.14.1.0 Standards developed and adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Fire Protection Association, as well as other recognized organizations, were utilized in the preparation of this document and may be consulted for further information.