



## Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

**Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911**

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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#### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES 304

##### Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

#### STRUCTURE FIRE RESPONSE

##### Purpose

To provide a means of suppressing fires when they occur within a structure and to establish guidelines so that all personnel shall have a clear understanding of their responsibilities at the scene of a structure fire.

##### Policy

These guidelines shall be followed whenever a fire occurs within a structure.

##### Procedures

###### Upon Arrival

1. The first in officer shall take command and give a brief condition report consisting of at least the following:
  - a. Number of stories
  - b. Type of structure
  - c. What is showing
  - d. From what side the problem is showing
  - e. Report on exposures

###### Communications and Coordination

1. The Incident Commander must provide the necessary coordination of the various fire ground activities.
2. The Incident Commander will communicate all instruction and vital information clearly to those to whom he is supervising.
3. On the fireground, all responding units shall go to radio frequency one, (Harrison County Fire) unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.

###### Tactical Considerations

The tactical objectives in fighting a structure fire shall be in order of priority as follows:

- a. Rescue
- b. Exposure protection
- c. Confinement
- d. Extinguishment
- e. Overhaul
- f. Ventilation
- g. Salvage

1. Rescue

- a. Human life is the most important consideration at a fire or other emergency.
- b. Rescue of humans override all other strategic considerations at a fire.
- c. The primary functions of the first in engine company shall be rescue.
- d. A primary and secondary search shall be conducted at all structure fires.
- e. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEPT UNDER THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER, SHALL A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER MAKE ENTRY INTO A WORKING STRUCTURE FIRE.**

2. Exposure Protection

- a. Exposure protection is the strategy of preventing a fire from spreading to the uninvolved building(s) or in uninvolved parts of the fire building.
- b. The Incident Commander shall be responsible for making assignments for the initial protection of exposures.

3. Confinement

- a. The strategy of confinement means preventing the fire from extending to uninvolved sections of the building.
- b. Whenever possible, the most effective method of confining fire spread is a direct attack on the fire.
- c. The Incident Commander shall decide whether to make an offensive approach, aggressive interior attack, or a defensive approach, attacking the fire from the outside. There may be situations when both approaches could be used.
- d. All avenues of fire spread must be considered (shafts, openings, utility raceways, ducts, etc.)
- e. Where fires involve concealed spaces (attic, ceilings, construction voids, etc.) it becomes very important that the ventilation occurs and the engine companies operate fire streams into such areas.

4. Extinguishment

- a. In most fire situations a quick and aggressive attack on the seat of the fire will take care of rescue, exposures, and confinement at the same time.
- b. The size-up will provide information as to techniques, equipment and manpower needs to overcome the fire.
- c. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEPT UNDER THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER, SHALL A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER MAKE ENTRY INTO A WORKING STRUCTURE FIRE.**

5. Overhaul

- a. The purpose of overhaul is to make sure the fire is completely out.
- b. Overhaul operations must be properly coordinated with fire investigation efforts.
- c. Unsafe conditions should be identified early in the overhaul process and definite efforts made to avoid the possible problems associated with the same.
- d. During overhaul most firefighters are more relaxed, tired, perhaps less alert and more apt to get injured.

- e. Personnel should not remove their breathing apparatus until the area is completely cleared of toxic gases.
- f. When available, a fresh crew should perform overhaul.
- g. Particular attention should be given to hidden areas during overhaul.
- h. During overhaul care should be given to protect personnel from exposure to carbon monoxide and other by products of combustion.

#### 6. Ventilation

- a. Based upon the situation, ventilation may need to occur anytime during the operation.
- b. The second in engine company will assume initial responsibility for ventilation.
- c. Ventilation shall be employed to:
  - 1. Channel heat, smoke, and flames from potential victims.
  - 2. To prevent backdraft and flashover.
  - 3. To remove heat and smoke from the building so to reduce property damage.
  - 4. To allow the interior of the structure to be more tenable and safer for firefighting operations.

#### 7. Salvage

- a. Salvage may need to begin at various points during a fire operation.
- b. Salvage refers to those operations required to safe guard personal property, furnishings, and the unaffected portions of a structure from the effects of heat, smoke, fire and the weather.
- c. Salvage shall include:
  - 1. The use of salvage covers.
  - 2. Removing water from the structure.
  - 3. Removing furniture and personal belongings to a safe location.
  - 4. Debris removal.
  - 5. Removal of valuables from debris.
  - 6. Covering openings to keep weather out and to secure the building.
- d. All members are expected to perform in a manner that continually reduces loss during fire operations.

#### Utility Control

- 1. Utilities should be shut down and brought under control to insure that they will not contribute to the fire's spread, overall damage or create any type of safety hazard.
- 2. At structure fires where electrical involvement or damage has occurred, the Incident Commander shall request via radio the response of the electric company.
- 3. If the electric company is not available in time, fire personnel may shut down the power.
- 4. If necessary, shut down gas lines at the meter and notify the Incident Commander who will see that the gas company is notified.
- 5. If necessary, shut down the water supplies to the structure at the valve closest to the point of usage.

#### Safety

- 1. Safety is an important aspect of all fire ground operations. Accomplishing fire ground objectives in a safe manner helps reduce firefighter injuries.
- 2. Members involved at structure fires shall wear appropriate protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus.
- 3. Fire ground operations should not be carried out in a rush, but rather they should be accomplished at a reasonable pace which allows for operations to be completed in a safe and efficient manner.
- 4. Fire officers will constantly be aware of both fire and structural conditions which may deteriorate to a point which places firefighters in jeopardy.

5. Indications of the possibility of structural collapse and/or other life threatening occurrences shall be communicated to all personnel within the incidents perimeter and appropriate actions taken.
6. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEPT UNDER THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER, SHALL A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER MAKE ENTRY INTO A WORKING STRUCTURE FIRE.**

By Authority of:  
Fire Chief

**Eugene Shaeffer**