

Little Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Sta. 54

**P.O. Box 327
311 Main St.
Little Creek, DE 19961**

Standard Operating Guideline – 17-01 Basement Fires

Purpose: This Guideline is to establish the proper procedure for Basement Fires

Scope: All fire department personnel.

On known basement fires, the primary purpose of the 1" due Engine Company's hose line is to protect the search and rescue operation. The Officer shall do several risk assessments with the advancement of the hose line, based on an evaluation of the smoke and heat conditions encountered. The best location to confine the basement fire is at the top of the interior basement stairs and advancement to the top of the basement stairs shall be incremental. The first priority will be to protect the stairs between the 1st and 2nd floors, and if conditions allow further advancement the next priority will be to locate the basement stairs and provide protection for the rescue operation from this position by closing the basement door. If there is no door at the top of the stairs, or it will not close, a hose line directed at the 1" floor ceiling above the basement doorway would provide some protection.

At NO time shall the hose line be directed down into the basement unless ordered by Operations.

- . Conditions must be constantly evaluated.
- o If conditions deteriorate, notify Operations of the changing conditions.
- o Monitor the radio for the location of rescue teams inside the building.
- o All companies operating on the 1st floor above a basement fire shall perform risk assessments of the conditions inside the building at the following locations:
 - o The outside front steps.
 - o At the threshold of the front door.
 - o Inside the front foyer.
 - o At the door to the basement from the 1st floor.
- If the decision is made to evacuate the building:
 - o Incrementally begin to back-out of the building using the hose line for protection. The removal of this hose line from the building will not take place until all members involved in the search and interior operations on the floors above the basement have exited the building.
 - o All personnel that were operating on the 1st floor and above shall notify their Officer when exiting the building.
 - o Operations will be notified when all Companies other than the Engine Company providing the protective hose line at the top of the basement stairs have exited the building.
- . Operations will conduct a roll call.

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Written By: M. Scott Bundeck

Supersedes: None
Approved By: M. Scott Bundeck

1st Due Engine Company

- o Covers the address side of the structure, Side A-Alpha.
- . Gives a complete size-up.
- o Notifies Operations of the mode of attack.
- . Will be assigned by Operations to either a Division, or to the Exposure Group.
- o Stretches a protection or exposure line to the first floor:
- o Assess the conditions at the threshold of the front door.

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- o Enter the foyer inside the front door and assess the conditions.
- o Protect the stairs between the 1st and 2nd floors.

If conditions allow further advancement the next priority will be to locate the basement stairs and provide protection for the rescue operation from this position by closing the basement door, if possible. If there is no door at the top of the stairs or it will not close, a hose line directed at the 1st floor ceiling above the basement doorway would provide some protection.

When providing protection for the rescue operation. the hose line should never be directed down into the basement

2nd Due Engine Company

- o Covers the rear or opposite the address side, Side C-Charlie.
- . Gives a complete size-up.
- . Verifies the conditions in the basement, and notifies Operations.
- o Prepares to attack the fire in the basement.
- o Contacts Operations for the status of the 1st due Engine Company.
- o Be aware of over-ventilating the basement level (taking out sliding glass doors, or large windows) before permission for attack is obtained from Operations.
- o Operations must grant permission to the 2nd due Engine Company to attack the fire in the basement.
- o Once permission has been granted, they shall attack the fire, and Operations will assign them to either the Basement Division or the Attack Group.
- o They shall advise Operations of the status of utilities, if possible.
- o If no basement entrance exists, the 2nd due Engine will advise Operations, confirm that the 1st due Engine is protecting the rescue effort, and will knock down the fire through a basement window after receiving permission from Operations. After the fire is knocked down, Operations will direct a Company to descend the basement stairs, if conditions allow.
- o Consider cutting holes in the 1st floor and using revolving distributor nozzles.

3rd Due Engine Company

- o Covers the address side of the structure, Side A-Alpha, after they have completed the water supply for the 1st due Engine Company.
- o Backs up the 1st due Engine Company with a second protection line on the first floor.
- o Operations shall verify that they are backing-up the 1st due Engine Company and assign them to the Exposure Group, or to the Division on the floor above the fire.
- o Operation may assign them to cover exposures.
- o Performs the same risk assessment as the 1st due Engine Company.

The 3'd due Engine Company may be ordered by Operations to attack the fire from the front basement entrance (English basement). Coordination of this attack must take place between the 1st due Engine Company, 2nd due Engine Company and the 3rd due Engine Company. If Permission is granted by Operations they will be assigned to the Basement Division or Attack Group.