

**SUBJECT:** HIGH RISE FIRES  
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**SECTION:** 301.20  
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## PURPOSE

- A. To provide a means of combating fires in high rise buildings.
- B. To gain control of the building early in the fire.
- C. To insure the safety of all the building occupants.

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## POLICY

- A. High rise fire guidelines should be followed on any structures that are three stories and above.

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## REFERENCE

- A. *Model Procedures Guide for High Rise Firefighting, Second Edition, National Fire Service Incident Management System Consortium, 2003, ISBN 0-87939-217-7.*

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## PROCEDURE

- A. First-In Company should enter the lobby and obtain whatever information is available and give a conditions report.
- B. Locate the fire and relay information concerning the following:
  - 1. Reported location of fire (if known).
  - 2. Safety of elevators. (Are they useable?)
- C. Attempt to determine if rescue problem exists.
- D. Call for additional help, if necessary.

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## SAFETY

- A. Establish lobby control early in the fire to control elevators, utilities and running list of personnel in and out of the building.
- B. Area below fire (exterior) should be kept clear for two hundred (200) feet in all directions due to the possibility of broken glass falling from above.
- C. Command Post should be a minimum of two hundred (200) feet from the fire building.
- D. If elevators are judged safe to use, precede two floors below fire floor and use stairwells the rest of the distance.
- E. For rescue purposes, there are approximately one hundred (100) occupants per floor in a high rise building.

- F. Initial fire attack crew will need relief in twenty minutes (this includes the time it takes to ascend to the fire floor.).

## COMMUNICATIONS

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- A. Communications are usually poor in a "steel skeleton" building utilizing portable hand radios. Sometimes, moving to open window or roof will improve communications.
- B. It may be possible to utilize building's intercom or phone system.
- C. To minimize radio traffic over the emergency scene channel interior sector officers may make use of the building telephone system to contact the Fire Ground Command Post through the cellular telephone system.

## OPERATIONS

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- A. Locate fire - leaving one member in lobby to establish lobby control.
- B. Prepare for standpipe operation. Pump to both standpipe and sprinkler system.
- C. If evacuation is necessary, you may be able to move the occupants to a safe area two or three floors above or below fire, rather than evacuating everyone out by way of the lobby.
- D. A command post shall be established and other high rise operational positions shall be implemented as needed to insure an efficient operation.
- E. Ventilation is most effectively carried out by removing (if possible) or breaking out the windows on the fire floor (horizontal ventilation).
- F. If you must ventilate vertically using stairwells, make sure that escape is not cut off for anyone; also that only a smoke tower stairwell be used.