

Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

GENERAL OPERATIONS

The Waterloo Fire Department will conduct suppression and rescue operations in conformity with generally accepted practices as established by the State of New York Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and/or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and/or other recognized authorities. All operations shall be conducted by qualified personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Ambulance

For all working structure fires, ice water rescue operations, and any other response where the IC feels that EMS personnel should be available to render aid to either victims or to Departmental personnel, the IC should request an ambulance if not dispatched. The IC, at his/her discretion, may stage the ambulance and crew at the scene of the incident, or stage at a alternate location awaiting further direction.

Operation in Hazardous Areas

- Interior firefighting or operation in hazardous areas may be conducted only by Active members who have been certified to the level of Firefighter 1 or above.
- Firefighters operating in hazardous areas shall operate in crews of two or more.
- Firefighters operating in hazardous areas shall be in communication with each other through visual, audible, or physical means, in order to coordinate activities and provide assistance in case of emergency.
- No entry, other than for life safety reasons, may be made by any personnel until such time as a charged hose line is available to the entry team.
- In the initial stages of an incident, where only one crew is operating in the hazardous area at a working structural fire, a minimum of four individuals shall be required, consisting of two individuals working as a crew in the hazardous area, and two standby individuals outside, available for assistance or rescue.
- As soon as practical, a back-up hose line shall be deployed to protect the entry team. The primary function of the back-up hose line is to provide protection in the event of failure of the primary attack line, or for further protection of the interior firefighters. Therefore, the back-up line should not be used for other suppression activities.
- All hose lines used for interior attacks or for back-up shall be at least 1 ¾ inch diameter deployed from the pre-connected speed lays
- The second due engine will prepare to supply water from the hydrant system or establish a water source. If limited personnel delays the second due engine, the first engine may need to find a water supply.
- The decision to employ interior or exterior suppression activities shall remain with the IC. Factors used to make tactical decisions include safety of responders, life safety concerns and protection and preservation of property.

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- The sounding of repeated, extended air horn blast will indicate the evacuation signal. All interior operating personnel will cease operations and evacuate the structure.
- Following an evacuation of a structure, operating personnel will be accounted for per SOG 2020-006.

Interior Search

- An interior search shall be conducted at all fire scenes unless the IC can determine that no occupants are located inside the premises.
- All interior searches shall be conducted by teams consisting of at least two (2) firefighters. Any victims located shall be removed from the interior immediately by the team.
- The search team shall maintain radio contact with the IC or the operations officer, if assigned.
- In the event of smoke/fire conditions, a fully charged hand line shall be made available to protect the search team.

Brush Fires/Car Fires

The IC shall determine the suppression tactics and personnel to be employed.

- All personnel involved with a car fire suppression will be in proper PPE with SCBA.
- Initial attack will be made with a pre-connected speed-lay with a backup line stretched as soon as manpower arrives.
- Suppression personnel will attack fire from the sides of the vehicle to avoid the bumpers. Personnel need to be aware of pressurized cylinders installed throughout the vehicle to prevent injury from bursting when heated.
- When opening the engine compartment, it shall be supported by a hand tool to prevent accidental closing and injury.
- The use of foam will be at the discretion of IC or the operations officer.

Vehicle Extrication

- Appropriate response and turnout gear shall be used while conducting this operation.
- Stabilize vehicle prior to fire personnel entry.
- Medical personnel will stabilize the victims and coordinate the extrication with the operations officer.
- Provide victim protection prior to cutting and removing any glass.
- Extra personnel shall provide fire protection with a minimum of a fire extinguisher or a speed-lay line.
- Extra personnel will assist in setting up an equipment staging area in a location not to impede the operation. The personnel will stage near the equipment staging area to assist if needed.

Overhaul

Policy Number: 2020-007

Effective Date: 04/01/2020

Last Review Date: _____

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- The IC or the operations officer shall determine overhaul methods and personnel to be employed.
- All personnel will maintain use of SCBA until the IC or the operations officer determines that air quality is at safe levels. **Note that combustion products in air can be toxic or carcinogenic, even if CO levels are low.**
- A charged hand line will be maintained during the overhaul phase until it has been established that all fire has been totally extinguished.

Haz-Mat

The IC shall determine the operation tactics and personnel to be employed.

Air Quality Monitoring

- The IC or the operations officer shall monitor for the presence of Carbon Monoxide at all responses where smoke or fire conditions are present, including furnace malfunction calls.

Mutual Aid Requested

- Will be handed by our automatic mutual aid program.
- Additional requests for Mutual Aid, either tanker task force, manpower or equipment, will be made by the IC as appropriate as the incident progresses.
- Companies providing Mutual Aid to Weston should be placed back in service as soon as possible.

Communications

- All personnel should refrain from making any comments or observations to any persons outside of this Department concerning the nature of the incident, the operations conducted the extent of damage or injuries, or the cause or origin of the problem.
- **All communications between the Department and other persons (including the occupants or property owners) concerning the incident and response, except as may be required to properly complete an assigned task (e.g., communication between rescuer and victim) should be limited to the IC.**