

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 11-03

February 1, 2011

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Richard Bowers 

SUBJECT: Rapid Intervention Company - Amendment to the **Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Structural Firefighting Operations**

This FCGO amends and supersedes in its entirety Section VII STRUCTURAL FIRE ASSIGNMENT, Section VIII STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING IN AREAS WITHOUT MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY, and Section IX OPERATIONS AT HIGH RISE STRUCTURE FIRES (pp. 14 – 37) of MCFRS Policy and Procedure 24-07AMII, **SOPs for Safe Structural Firefighting Operations**, dated 12/1/05. **This FCGO will be effective on April 3, 2011, after a 60-day training period.** All MCFRS personnel must become familiar with, and when appropriate, implement the procedures in this FCGO.

The purpose of this change is to reduce the risk to firefighters by deploying the Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) earlier in an incident. Lessons learned from previous MAYDAY events demonstrate the need to move the RIC to the third-due engine company, as Mayday events typically occur during the first few minutes of an incident.

VII. STRUCTURAL FIRE ASSIGNMENT. The standard dispatch assignment for a structure fire (except for a shed or detached garage) is five engines, two aerial units, one rescue squad, one EMS **unit**, and four Command Officers. At least two Command Officers must respond on the assignment. All **personnel** must use the procedures below during structure firefighting operations. **Personnel** must not take action until their **Unit Officer** in charge directs them to do so. All drivers who are not specifically assigned to **apparatus** operations will assemble with their **crew**. **Fireground discipline is critical during all incident responses.** In addition to the listed responsibilities, **Unit Officers** must maintain **crew** integrity, ensure that **personnel** and **apparatus** take their assigned positions, and follow this and other applicable policies, including the MCFRS *Incident Command System*. The **IC** may modify these assignments as necessary.

Crews responding on a reduced assignment of two engines and a special service will follow the SOP for the first two engines and the first special service indicated below.

a. **First Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Initiate water supply by laying a supply line from the most suitable hydrant, or begin a split lay. Position the engine on Side A, reserving adequate space for the aerial unit to position. Connect to the Fire Department Connection (standpipe and/or sprinkler system), if so equipped, on or closest to Side A. If the first due engine is required to position elsewhere, this must be reported immediately to all other responding **units** and Command Officers.
2. **Unit Officer.**
 - A. Provide water supply instructions by radio while en route to the incident location.
 - B. On arrival, give reports as required in Section 4.IV. of this SOP.
 - C. Follow the **IDLH** operations provisions of this SOP.
3. **Crew.** Advance a hose line to the fire floor and begin fire attack/confinement, with attack line placement to best support the search function.
4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

b. **Second Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Ensure and expand upon the water supply as necessary for the first due engine, by connecting to the hydrant and improving the intake pressure of the first due engine, and/or laying additional supply lines as necessary.
2. **Crew.** Advance a hose line and back up the first due engine.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

c. **Third Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Position as close to the incident as possible without impeding access for other incoming **units** requiring a tactical position. Do not lay any supply lines.
2. **Crew.**
 - A. Report to the **IC** and advise that you are the **RIC**, unless specifically **ordered** otherwise, and assume the operations of the **RIC**.
 - B. Secure an additional hose line and immediately relieve the **Standby Team** to become the **RIC**. This is usually done face-to-face, but may be done by radio on larger scale incidents.
 - C. Monitor all critical operational talk groups and the FDТА channel.
 - D. Determine the location of the fire and its progression.
 - E. Observe fire conditions, note attack progress, and determine the location of **crews** working in the building.
 - F. Determine the occupancy type and building construction.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics, and any additional **equipment** specific to the **RIC** function.

d. **Fourth Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Initiate water supply by laying a supply line from an unused hydrant, when possible, or begin a split-lay to Side C. Position the unit to reserve adequate space for aerial unit positioning. Connect to the Fire Department Connection (standpipe/sprinkler system), if so equipped, on or closest to Side C.
2. **Unit Officer.**
 - A. Give water supply instructions by radio while en route to the incident location.
 - B. On arrival, give reports in accordance with Section 4.IV. of this SOP.

3. **Crew.** Advance a hose line to floor **above** the fire floor, or to the exposure most threatened by horizontal extension, and initiate operations. Check the basement and the floors below the fire while en route to the floor above.
4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose line, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

e. **Fifth Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Ensure, and as necessary, expand upon the water supply for the fourth due engine by connecting to the hydrant and improving the intake pressure of the fourth due engine, and/or laying additional supply lines as necessary.
2. **Crew.** Report to the **IC** for assignment; do not engage in any job task until assigned by the **IC**.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose line, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

f. **First Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side A.
2. **Crew.**
 - A. Perform rapid outside horizontal ventilation coordinated with the fire attack.
 - B. If necessary, perform initial forcible entry for the first due engine.
 - C. Provide secondary exit(s) for interior **crews** with ground and/or aerial ladders on buildings more than one story high.
 - D. After completing the duties outlined above, report to the fire floor. Initiate or assist the assigned rescue squad with search and rescue. Begin checking for extension by opening concealed spaces as necessary after the bulk of the fire has been extinguished.
 - E. Support the fire attack by providing lighting, and perform ventilation, overhaul, and salvage operations.

3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

g. **Second Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side C.
2. **Crew.**
 - A. Assist first due aerial unit with outside horizontal ventilation that is coordinated with, and supports, the fire attack plan.
 - B. Perform initial forcible entry as necessary for the fourth due engine.
 - C. Provide secondary exit(s) for interior **crews** with ground and/or aerial ladders for buildings more than one story high.
 - D. Provide vertical ventilation when ordered or approved by the **Incident Commander.**
 - E. After completing the duties outlined above, report to the floor above the fire. Initiate or assist the assigned rescue squad with search and rescue on that floor. Begin checking for extension by opening concealed spaces as necessary after the bulk of the fire has been extinguished.
 - F. Support the fire attack by providing lighting, and performing ventilation, overhaul, and salvage operations.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

h. **Rescue Squad**

1. **Unit.** Position to avoid impeding responding or departing **apparatus.**
2. **Unit Officer.** Report to the **IC** or division/group supervisor as soon as the primary and all subsequent secondary searches are completed and utilities are controlled.
3. **Crew.** Ensure completion of a systematic search of the building; control the building's utilities and assist, in coordination with the assigned aerial units, with ventilation, overhaul, and salvage activities.

4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.
- i. **Ambulance or ALS Unit**
 1. **Unit.** Position on Side A, ensuring that the vehicle can leave the fireground, if necessary. The vehicle does not have to be included in the aid station.
 2. **Crew.** Establish an aid station on Side A.
 3. **Equipment.** Includes portable radios, hand lights, cot, oxygen equipment, first aid kit, a burn kit, and ALS **equipment** (ALS Unit only). If the **crew** is used as a **Standby Team**, all **personnel** must wear full **PPE** and **SCBAs**.
 - j. **First Arriving Command Officer**
 1. **Unit.** Normally, position on Side A, allowing space for the engine, aerial **unit**, and rescue squad to implement tactical operations.
 2. **Officer.** Establish a Command Post and assume Command of the incident scene, in accordance with Section 4.VI. of this SOP and the MCFRS *Incident Command System*.
 3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio and a hand light.
 - k. **Additional Command Officers**
 1. **Unit.** Position vehicles to allow access of responding engines, aerial **units**, and rescue squads.
 2. **Officer.** Report to the **IC** for assignment.
 3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio and a hand light.

VIII. STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING IN AREAS WITHOUT MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY. The standard dispatch for a structure fire in a non-hydranted area is five engines, two aerial **units**, one rescue squad, three tankers, one EMS **unit**, and four Command Officers. Three Command Officers is the minimum Command Officer response. This Section of the SOP establishes a procedure for structure firefighting in areas of the County that lack fire hydrants close to the

fire. The procedure is a modification of the SOP for hydranted areas, and emphasizes supporting the fire attack of the initial arriving engine, with an uninterrupted, expandable water supply using rural water supply tactics.

NOTE: Units arriving on a scene where large diameter hose (LDH) is deployed should move the LDH to the side of the road, driveway, etc., before charging the line.

a. **First Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Initiate the water supply process by laying a supply line connected to the **unit's** clapped Siamese. This hose lay must begin at the driveway entrance to the involved structure, or from the nearest area suitable for dump site operations. The location of this site must be identified in the **unit's** on-scene report.

2. **Unit Officer.**

A. Determine and advise whether a tanker shuttle or relay operation will be implemented for the water supply. Advise the water source for the shuttle or relay operation so the fifth due engine can position there and establish a fill site or relay water source.

NOTE: If the water source is accessible and located within 3000 feet of the first engine's Siamese, a relay operation is the preferred water supply option.

B. Direct other incoming engines and tankers to support the initial attack until a water shuttle or water relay is developed.

C. On arrival, give reports in accordance with Section 4.IV. of this SOP.

D. All firefighting operations must adhere to the requirements of Section 4.I. of this SOP.

3. **Crew.** Advance a hand line to the fire floor and begin fire attack/confinement, with attack line placement to best support the search function.

4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

b. **Second Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Position the engine close to the attack engine, and supply tank water to the attack engine as necessary. Leave clear access to the driveway for the first arriving tanker and aerial **unit**.

NOTE: As the second due engine positions, the **crew** may need to move the supply line(s) from the middle of the road or driveway.

1. **Unit Officer**. Quickly assess the availability of a water source (e.g., a swimming pool or a pond near the involved structure).
2. **Crew**. Advance a hose line and back up the first due engine.
3. **Equipment**. Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

c. **Third Due Engine**

1. **Unit**. Locate in an uncommitted position as close to the incident as possible, without impeding other apparatus for planned water supply operations. The **unit** may be directed to:
 - A. operate as a draft engine to support the initial attack from a static water source; or
 - B. begin laying supply lines for water relay operations, as directed.
2. **Driver**. Be prepared to pump water to the clapped Siamese to support the attack engine, and stand by for instructions from the Water Supply Group Officer (WSGO). Be prepared to assist the driver of the fourth due engine to create a dump site.
3. **Crew**.
 - A. Report to the **IC** and advise that you are the **RIC**; unless specifically ordered otherwise, assume the operations of the **RIC**.
 - B. Secure an additional hose line and immediately relieve the **Standby Team** to become the **RIC**. This is usually done face-to-face, but may be done by radio on larger scale incidents.
 - C. Monitor all critical operational talk groups and the FDTA channel.
 - D. Determine the location of the fire and its progression.

- E. Observe fire conditions, note attack progress, and determine the location of **crews** working in the building.
 - F. Determine the occupancy type and building construction.
 - 4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics, and any additional equipment specific to the **RIC** function.
- d. **Fourth Due Engine**
- 1. **Unit.** Position the engine to allow the first tanker and the first aerial **unit** to position close to the structure, while best positioning either for dump site, or relay operations, as directed.
 - A. **For Dump Site Operations:** Position the unit to draft from folding tank(s). This position must allow the engine to draft from the folding tanks, and enable the tankers to fill the folding tanks, preferably using their side dumps.

Connect to the clappered Siamese and leave the supply line uncharged until ordered to charge. Try to enable first due tanker and aerial **unit** to position close to the structure before charging the supply line.
 - B. **For Relay Operations:** Position as necessary to initiate the relay.
 - 2. **Unit Officer.** Place into operation the initial dump site operations, or perform relay operations.
 - 3. **Crew.** Manage dump site operations.
 - 4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.
- e. **Fifth Due Engine**
- 1. **Unit.** Establish the first fill site; do not respond directly to the scene.
 - 2. **Unit Officer.** Place into operation the initial fill site, or relay water source as identified.
 - 3. **Crew.** For fill site operations, set up at least two LDH supply lines with quarter-turn ball valves attached, capable of filling tankers at a minimum rate of 500 GPM each. Maintain fill site operations, and establish water supply connections for incoming **apparatus**.

4. **Equipment**. Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

f. **First Due (Nurse) Tanker**

1. **Unit**. If staffing permits, drop off portable tank at the end of the driveway or near the clappered Siamese. Position the **unit** near the first due engine and connect the supply line to the tanker, and from the tanker to the first arriving engine. Supply the first due engine with tank water, and transition to supplying water from the dump site or relay source as one becomes established. Try to maintain a full tank of water in case the supply is interrupted
2. **Crew**. Assist the driver with water supply operations.

g. **Second Due Tanker**

1. **Unit**. The primary responsibility for this **unit** is to support the fire attack by immediately pumping the Siamese, and continuing to pump the Siamese until it runs out of water.

The tanker will leave its folding tank and all appropriate appliances to be used in developing dump site operations at the dump site.

If the fourth engine is not in a position to set up the dump site, the second tanker should supply the Siamese from a position that allows the fourth engine and third tanker access to the dump site.

2. **Crew**. Assist the driver with water supply operations.

h. **Third Due Tanker**

1. **Unit**. Support the fire attack by pumping the Siamese until the dump site is operating.

If the fourth due engine is in position to begin developing the dump site, the third due tanker should position to set up the folding tank and dump enough water for the fourth due engine to achieve a draft. If the fourth due engine is successful in drafting, then transition from tankers supplying the Siamese, to the fourth due engine supplying the Siamese from folding tanks. When the fourth due engine is successfully drafting, dump remaining water into the folding tank and move to the fill site.

If in relay operations, support the Siamese until the relay is in service.

2. **Crew**. Assist the driver with water supply operations.

i. **First Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side A, or in the area of highest priority to accomplish rescue operations. Provide roof access/egress, or deploy a defensive, elevated stream. If this location impedes incoming water supply **units**, position the **unit** elsewhere, e.g., in an adjoining driveway.
2. **Crew.** Perform duties outlined in Section 4.VII.f. of this SOP.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

j. **Second Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position on the main road, or in a location that does not impede the access/egress of tankers.
2. **Crew.** Perform duties outlined in Section 4.VII.g. of this SOP.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

k. **Rescue Squad**

1. **Unit.** Position on the main road, or in a location that does not impede the access/egress of tankers.
2. **Crew.** Perform duties outlined in Section 4.VII.h. of this SOP.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

l. **Ambulance or ALS Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position at the incident scene to facilitate the positioning of other **apparatus**, assuring that the vehicle can leave the fireground if necessary. The vehicle does not have to be included in the aid station.
2. **Crew.** Establish an aid station on Side A.
3. **Equipment.** Includes portable radios, hand lights, cot, oxygen **equipment**, first aid kit, a burn kit, and ALS **equipment** (ALS **Unit** only). If the **crew** is used as a **Standby Team**, all **personnel** must wear full **PPE** and **SCBA**.

m. **First Arriving Command Officer**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side A, allowing space for the first and second due engine, tanker, and aerial unit to implement tactical operations.
2. **Officer.** Establish a Command Post and assume Command of the incident scene, in accordance with Section 4.V. of this SOP and the MCFRS *Incident Command System*. Once a formal Command Post has been established, assign a Water Supply Group Supervisor as soon as possible.
3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio and a hand light.

n. **Water Supply Group Supervisor**

1. **Officer.** Locate available water sources and position to coordinate water supply operations. The Water Supply Group should operate on a separate tactical Talkgroup assigned by the **IC**.
2. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio, and a hand light.

o. **Water Supply Task Force**

Upon the indication of a working structure fire in a non-hydranted area, or at the request of the **IC**, ECC will dispatch a Water Supply Task Force consisting of one additional engine and three additional tankers.

p. **Water Supply Task Force Engine**

1. **Unit.** Report to and develop the second designated fill site location as directed by the WSGO.
2. **Crew.** Set up at least two LDH supply lines with quarter-turn ball valves attached, capable of filling tankers at a minimum rate of 500 GPM each. Maintain the fill site operation; establish water supply connections for incoming **apparatus**.
3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate **PPE** for fill site operations.

q. **First Due Tanker from Water Supply Task Force**

1. **Unit.** Support the fire attack by supplying the clappered Siamese, or by dumping into the portable tanks at the direction of the WSGO. Drop off the portable tank, water, and appliances as directed; proceed to the fill site.
2. **Crew.** Assist the driver with water supply operations.

- r. **Second Due Tanker from Water Supply Task Force**
 - 1. **Unit.** Support the fire attack by supplying the clappered Siamese, or by dumping into the portable tanks at the direction of the WSGO. Drop off the portable tank, water, and appliances as directed; proceed to the fill site.
 - 2. **Crew.** Assist the driver with water supply operations.

- s. **Third Due Tanker from Water Supply Task Force**
 - 1. **Unit.** Support the fire attack by supplying the clappered Siamese, or by dumping into the portable tanks at the direction of the WSGO. Drop off the portable tank, water, and appliances as directed; proceed to the fill site.
 - 2. **Crew.** Assist the driver with water supply operations.

IX. OPERATIONS AT HIGH RISE BUILDING INCIDENTS (Generally follow the same SOPS as Section VII., Structure Fire Assignment.) This Section directs operational activities on the scene of emergency incidents in **high rise structures**. The standard dispatch is five engines, three aerial **units**, one rescue squad, one EMS **unit**, and four Command Officers. At least two Command Officers must respond on the assignment. All **personnel** must use the procedures below when responding to a **high rise structure** fire.

DIVISION/GROUPS IN HIGH RISE BUILDING INCIDENTS. In addition to the divisions/groups normally used in the MCFRS *Incident Command System*, the division/groups below may be useful during **high rise building** incidents. The **IC** should request additional **units** to adequately support the suppression/emergency operation, and to cover the required division/groups and support functions.

- a. **Building Access/Use of Knox Box.** If a Knox Box is available, **unit personnel** will use the access key to open it, remove one set of keys, and re-lock the Knox Box.
 - 1. Access keys must not be left in the Knox Box, nor may the Knox Box be left open under any circumstances.
 - 2. One set of keys must remain available for the Lobby Control Group.
 - 3. The keys are color coded and labeled:

Main Entrance Doors	Green Tag
Fire Control Room	Blue Tag
Elevator Control	Red Tag
Boiler/HVAC Control Room	Yellow Tag
Other keys (roof, et. al.)	Black-labeled Tag

4. The first arriving **unit officer** must ensure that all keys have been returned to the Knox Box at the conclusion of the incident.
- b. **Stairways.** Identify, establish, and maintain stairways as safe corridors of operation to be used as main evacuation/escape routes and fire attack points. When using stairways as fire attack points, consider evacuating the upper floors by a different stairway.
 1. The first arriving engine company will designate the stairway to be used for fire attack and advise the **Incident Commander**.
 2. The **IC** should immediately try to identify and communicate both the preferred evacuation route, and the evacuation shelter location.
- c. **Location Unknown Procedure.** If the location of the fire/emergency is unknown or uncertain, the first arriving engine and special service will use the stairway to check the building, beginning on the lowest floor and moving upward. **PERSONNEL MUST NOT USE ELEVATORS UNDER THIS CONDITION.**
- d. **Elevator Procedures.** Avoid the use of elevators whenever possible. Individuals who are not emergency service providers must not ride elevators under actual or potential fire conditions. **Personnel** must:
 1. note the location of the nearest stairwell before entering an elevator;
 2. note the location and method of operation of the emergency stop switch, if available;
 3. wear full **PPE** and **SCBAs** with the cylinder valve open and face pieces on, with the regulator in hand for rapid connection;
 4. connect the regulator if the elevator car fails to stop at the midway point; and
 5. confine the operation of the elevator to upper floors between entry level(s) and at least two floors below the fire, until the fire is under control and the **IC** has suspended this restriction.
- e. Elevators must not be used in Independent Service mode under fire conditions. **FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL MUST NOT USE ELEVATORS:**
 1. if fire, smoke, or heat is detected in the hoist way or elevator shaft or reported in the elevator machine room;
 2. if Fireman's Service is unavailable, or cannot be confirmed as operating reliably; or

3. on any incident that is located or reported on or below the fifth floor.
- f. When Fireman's Service mode is confirmed to be usable, the **unit officer** must:
1. check the shaft for evidence of fire, smoke, or heat before boarding the elevator;
 2. ensure the elevator is not overcrowded;
 3. ensure that at least one **crew** member has a portable radio and forcible entry tools; and
 4. stop the elevator car at a point midway to test the Fireman's Service operation, check orientation, and re-check the shaft for fire, smoke, or heat.
- g. **Ventilation Procedures.** The ventilation procedures below apply to **personnel** during **high rise building** incidents.
1. Immediately ventilate stairwells that are charged with smoke, using hatches and bulkhead doors. Initially try to ventilate all stairwells; then pressurize those stairwells used for occupant evacuation.
 2. Use smoke ejectors, blowers, and positive pressure units to channel smoke and pressurize stairwells. Consider establishing a Ventilation Group, and place that Group on a separate radio talk group when appropriate.
 3. Until specific operational information on the air handling systems and their effects on the smoke and fire is known, the **IC** should consider shutting down the air handling systems to curtail the spread of fire, smoke, and toxic gases throughout the building. When possible, the **IC** should consult with the building engineer before shutting down, activating, or reactivating any portion of this system.
 4. Notify all Division and Group supervisors before reactivating the system, and carefully monitor the air and smoke within the building. Monitor Interior Staging areas or other operational areas inside the building for possible carbon monoxide accumulation.
 5. Recognize that breaking glass to ventilate the upper floors of a **high rise building** is extremely dangerous, and should be done only as a last resort, preferably after warning is given.

- h. **Lobby Control Group.** At high rise building fires, this Group is responsible for:
1. securing the lobby area, and ensuring that all elevators are returned to the lobby area or the designated floor; and
 2. acquiring information needed by the **IC**, including: floor plans and approved evacuation plans; type of occupancy; a list of disabled occupants, their names and phone numbers, for building engineers and building management; information concerning the HVAC, utilities, mechanical rooms, and fire pumps; any unusual conditions; and items including master keys, window keys, and elevator keys, etc.
- i. **Interior Staging Group.** At all high rise building fires, the **IC** should establish an Interior Staging Group two or more floors below the fire floor, but as close to the fire floor as conditions permit.
1. Identify the Interior Staging Group by its floor location. E.g., staging on the seventh floor would be known as "Staging 7."
 2. This Group may be divided into two areas -- one to provide logistical support (e.g., equipment, SCBA re-supply) -- and the other for **personnel** staging.
 3. If an Operations Section is established, the Section Chief may operate from or near this location.
 4. A Stairwell Support company may be established to move required equipment up/down the building. One firefighter should be placed at two floor intervals, and each firefighter should carry **equipment** not more than two floors. If activated, this function will report to the Interior Staging Group Supervisor.
- j. **Fire Control Room.** The **IC** may assign an officer to the **Fire Control Room** in buildings so equipped. **Personnel** assigned to the **Fire Control Room** are responsible for:
1. establishing telephone communications with division/groups operating in the building;
 2. providing occupants and/or fire and rescue **personnel** with special instructions for evacuating endangered areas via a public address system;
 3. assisting with stairway ventilation and pressurization at the direction of the **IC**/Ventilation Group;

4. monitoring various annunciator and control panels, and keeping the **IC** informed; and
5. resetting and silencing alarms as directed by the **IC**.

k. **First Due Engine**

1. **Unit**. Initiate water supply by laying a supply line from the most suitable hydrant, or beginning a split lay. Position the engine on Side A, reserving adequate space for the aerial unit to position. Connect to the Fire Department Connection (standpipe and/or sprinkler system), if so equipped, on or closest to Side A. If the first due engine is required to position elsewhere, this must be reported immediately to all other responding **units** and Command Officers.
2. **Unit Officer**.
 - A. Give water supply instructions by radio while en route to the incident location.
 - B. On arrival, give reports in accordance with Section 4.IV. of this SOP.
 - C. Follow the provisions of this SOP regarding **IDLH** operations.
3. **Crew**. Advance a hose line to the fire floor and begin rescue, fire attack, confinement, or exposure protection, as appropriate. The driver should pressurize the standpipe and/or sprinkler systems.
4. **Equipment**. Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

l. **Second Due Engine**

1. **Unit**. Ensure and expand upon the water supply as necessary for the first due engine, by connecting to the hydrant and improving the intake pressure of the first due engine, and/or laying additional supply lines as necessary.
2. **Crew**. Advance a hose line and back up the first due engine.
3. **Equipment**. Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

m. **Third Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Position as close to the incident as possible without impeding access for other incoming units requiring a tactical position. Do not lay any supply lines.
2. **Crew.**
 - A. Report to the **IC** and advise that you are the **RIC**, unless specifically **ordered** otherwise, and assume the operations of the **RIC**.
 - B. Secure an additional hose line and immediately relieve the **Standby Team** to become the **RIC**. This is usually done face-to-face, but may be done by radio on larger scale incidents.
 - C. Monitor all critical operational talk groups and the FDTA channel.
 - D. Determine the location of the fire and its progression.
 - E. Observe fire conditions, note attack progress, and determine the location of **crews** working in the building.
 - F. Determine the occupancy type and building construction.
 - G. Usually, locate on the floor below the fire floor.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics, and any additional **equipment** specific to the **RIC** function.

n. **Fourth Due Engine**

1. **Unit.** Initiate water supply by laying a supply line from an unused hydrant, when possible, or beginning a split-lay to Side C. Position the unit to reserve adequate space for aerial **unit** positioning. Connect to the Fire Department Connection (standpipe/sprinkler system), if so equipped, on or closest to Side C.
2. **Unit Officer.**
 - A. Give water supply instructions by radio while en route to the incident location.
 - B. On arrival, give reports in accordance with Section 4.IV. of this SOP.

3. **Crew.** Advance a hose line to floor **above** the fire floor or to the exposure most threatened by horizontal extension, and initiate operations.
 4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.
- o. **Fifth Due Engine**
1. **Unit.** Ensure, and as necessary, expand upon the water supply for the fourth due engine by connecting to the hydrant and improving the intake pressure of the fourth due engine, and/or laying additional supply lines as necessary.
 2. **Crew.** Go to the lobby and establish the Lobby Control Group. Secure a set of building keys from the Knox Box.
 3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, hose lines, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.
- p. **First Due Aerial Unit**
1. **Unit.** Position on Side A.
 2. **Crew.**
 - A. Perform rapid outside horizontal ventilation coordinated with the fire attack.
 - B. If necessary, perform initial forcible entry for the first due engine.
 - C. Provide secondary exit(s) for interior **crews** with ground and/or aerial ladders on buildings more than one story high.
 - D. After completing the duties outlined above, report to the fire floor. Initiate or assist the assigned rescue squad with search and rescue. Begin checking for extension by opening concealed spaces as necessary after the bulk of the fire has been extinguished as needed.
 - E. Support the fire attack by providing lighting, and perform ventilation, overhaul, and salvage operations.
 3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

q. **Second Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side C.
2. **Crew.**
 - A. Assist the first due aerial **unit** with outside horizontal ventilation that is coordinated with, and supports the fire attack plan.
 - B. Perform initial forcible entry as necessary for the fourth due engine.
 - C. Provide secondary exit(s) for interior **crews** with ground and/or aerial ladders for buildings more than one story high.
 - D. Provide vertical ventilation when ordered or approved by the **Incident Commander**.
 - E. After completing the duties outlined above, report to the floor above the fire and initiate or assist the assigned rescue squad with search and rescue on that floor. Begin checking for extension by opening concealed spaces as necessary after the bulk of the fire has been extinguished as needed.
 - F. Support the fire attack by providing lighting, and perform ventilation, overhaul, and salvage operations.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

r. **Third Due Aerial Unit**

1. **Unit.** Position to avoid impeding responding or departing **apparatus**.
2. **Crew.** Go to top floor (or roof) of the building and immediately ventilate all stairwells charged with smoke. Coordinate all ventilation efforts with the **IC** or Ventilation Group Supervisor, as appropriate.
3. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools, and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

s. **Rescue Squad**

1. **Unit.** Position to avoid impeding responding or departing apparatus.
2. **Unit Officer.** Report to the **IC** as soon as the primary and all subsequent secondary searches are completed and utilities are controlled.
3. **Crew.** Ensure the completion of a systematic search of the building, control the building's utilities, and, in coordination with the assigned aerial **units**, assist with the ventilation, overhaul, and salvage activities.
4. **Equipment.** Includes SCBA, portable radios, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, tools and other **equipment** appropriate for the structure's construction and operational tactics.

t. **Ambulance or MICU**

1. **Unit.** Position on Side A, ensuring that the vehicle can leave the fire ground if necessary. The vehicle does not have to be included in the aid station.
2. **Crew.** Establish an aid station on Side A.
3. **Equipment.** Includes portable radios, cot, oxygen **equipment**, first aid kit, a burn kit, and ALS **equipment** (ALS **Unit** only). If the **crew** is used as a **Standby Team**, all **personnel** must wear full **PPE** and **SCBA**, and carry hand lights.

u. **First Arriving Command Officer**

1. **Unit.** Normally, position on Side A, allowing space for the engine, aerial **unit**, and rescue squad to implement tactical operations.
2. **Officer.** Establish a Command Post and assume Command of the incident scene, in accordance with Section 4.VI. of this SOP, and the MCFRS *Incident Command System*.
3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest, and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio and a hand light.

v. **Additional Command Officers**

1. **Unit.** Position vehicles to allow access of responding engines, aerial **units**, and rescue squads.
2. **Officer.** Report to the **IC** for assignment.
3. **Equipment.** Wear appropriate identifier vest and have immediate access to full **PPE** and **SCBA**, a portable radio and a hand light.