

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.26

STRUCTURE FIRE OPERATIONS – LIGHTWEIGHT, UNPROTECTED or BOWSTRING TRUSS

1. Intent and Purpose
 - a. To establish a guideline to be used in combating a fire in any structure which has a truss roof where the structural elements may be exposed to heat and fire.
2. Procedures
 - a. If smoke or fire is showing and no life hazard exists, first arriving companies shall use extreme caution before entering the structure.
 - i. Consider using a Defensive then Offensive strategy to knock down the fire before committing any crews to the interior. Before committing any crews to operations in the collapse zone the roof and truss stability must be assessed. If there is no life hazard and the stability of the truss components cannot be reasonably assessed then interior operations should not be conducted.
 - b. If smoke and fire are present and there is a life hazard / victim rescue, a risk vs. benefit analysis should be conducted. Any operations conducted should be geared towards rescuing victims and not saving property. These operations must provide as much protection as possible to the crews operating in the hazard zone.
 - c. Should the IC or first arriving Officer determine that the structure can or should be entered, the following procedures will apply:
 - i. The Officer will need to get additional manpower and water to sustain any type of attack for a period of time.
 - ii. If the first attack line does not control the fire within the first few seconds of water application and it appears that the fire will increase, interior firefighting should be discontinued.
 - iii. If the fire appears to be more than the first arriving company(s) can handle due to manpower or water supply, no entry of the structure should be made and the attack should become an exterior defensive attack.
 - iv. Fire apparatus should be located at a distance safe from collapse of the structure walls {one and one-half (1 ½) times the height of the building} and away from power lines.
 - v. Ventilation should be performed on Bowstring truss only from an independent source of support, such as an aerial ladder or adjacent structure, and then only if it is absolutely essential that the building be ventilated.