

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Fireground Operations**

**Fireground Operations, SOG 3.28**

**OPERATIONS IN SPRINKLED/STANDPIPED BUILDINGS**

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1. Upon Arrival

- a. Give a condition report.
- b. Continue size-up.
- c. Determine exact location of the fire:
  - i. Check with occupants.
  - ii. Check annunciator panel (if available).
  - iii. Check for alarm bells ringing, which may indicate the involved zone.
  - iv. Check for water flowing from exterior drains, which may indicate the involved zone.

Note: Normally, 1 ¾" hand lines may be used for fire streams in sprinkled buildings. However, when fires involve unusual hazards, high piled stock, or large areas, larger hand lines should be considered.

- v. Second engine to arrive at the scene will position on a hydrant and standby for orders to lay a line to the first arriving engine.
- vi. Third engine shall position the apparatus at the Fire Department Connections (FDC) and await orders to connect to the system and provide water supply. However, if the first arriving engine has the FDC at their location that engine should supply the system. The first arriving engine has the option to have the second engine go to the FDC if conditions warrant such action (i.e. need for water to support FDC because of life safety, third engine arrival time, etc.).
- vii. . The minimum Fire Department hook-up to the FDC should not be less than two (2) 2 ½ " hose lines or one (1) 5" hose line.
- viii. If a fire is in progress and the sprinkler heads have opened, one hundred fifty (150 PSI) pounds of pressure should be provided to the FDC, or an amount sufficient to overcome the systems operating pressure if system needs supported. If long lines are required (over 100 feet) between the pumping engine and FDC, the friction loss in the hose must be considered in hydraulic calculations.
- ix. Unless it is known for sure that private mains provide an adequate supply, engines should be connected to city hydrants (non-private), if available. A general rule is not to take suction from hydrants on a private system unless it is known that the system is adequate for the purpose.
- x. Observe the affect of the sprinkler system on the fire to determine:

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1. If the system is operating properly.
  2. The size and number of hose lines, which may be needed to effect complete control and extinguishment.
- d. Insure that evacuation, search and other life safety measures are promptly completed at fires in sprinklered buildings.
  - e. Initiate prompt salvage and water removal operations to protect records, machinery, storage, stock, and furnishings from water damage.
  - f. Do not shut down sprinkler systems until the fire is under control. Hand lines should be in place if needed to control and extinguish remaining fire.
  - g. After fire operations are complete:
    - i. Contact owner, occupant, or agent about the sprinkler system being out of order (shut down). They should contact the service representative to put the system back in operation.
    - ii. Explain to the owner, occupant, or agent that the property will not be protected or if connected to a central signaling station an alarm will not be transmitted.
2. “Button-Up” Approach
- a. Although not considered a standard method of handling fires in sprinklered buildings, the “Button –up” Approach offers an alternative operational procedure where unusual hazardous conditions may exist. In those situations where the involved sprinklered occupancy presents an extreme life safety hazard for fire personnel (i.e. high piled stocks of plastics, flammable liquids, etc.) the IC may, at his discretion, utilize the option of the “Button-up” approach.
    - i. Evacuate the building of all personnel.
    - ii. Close up building as tightly as possible to limit the air supply available to the fire.
    - iii. Connect an engine to the FDC and pump into the system.
    - iv. Keep sprinkler control valves wide open and sprinklers operating at all times, for an hour or more as necessary, until the fire has essentially been extinguished and can be manually attacked.
    - v. During the final stages of sprinkler operation, but before manual attack is begun, attempt to mechanically exhaust smoke from the building if the equipment is available. This will not only facilitate manual extinguishments, but will also help to prevent the chance that combustible gases, built-up inside the building from fire in an oxygen-starved atmosphere, could flash or explode when the building is opened.
    - vi. Before shutting off sprinklers, attempt to evaluate fire severity. This can be done either by a reconnaissance using handlines, lifelines and air packs, or by breaking through the roof or a wall if the location of the seat of the fire can be determined from questioning employees.
    - vii. Then, shut off sprinklers, open the building to vent smoke, and attack with hose streams any remaining fire. Keep a person posted

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at the sprinkler control valve at all times (with radio, if available)  
ready to turn sprinklers back on if the fire threatens to flare up.