

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Fireground Operations**

**Fireground Operations, SOG 3.32**

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**HIGH RISE FIRES**

1. Intent and Purpose
  - a. To provide a means of combating fires in high rise buildings, to gain control of the building early in the fire, and to ensure the safety of all the building occupants.
2. Policy
  - a. High Rise Fire guidelines should be followed on any structures that is three (3) stories and above.
3. 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:
    - i. Report location of fire (if known).
    - ii. Safety of elevators (are they usable?).
  - c. Attempt to determine if rescue problems exist.
  - d. Call for additional help, if necessary.
4. Command Structure
  - a. Establish a Command Post including the following as needed:
    - i. Resources Staging Area.
    - ii. Lobby Control.
    - iii. Operating Staging Area.
    - iv. Stairwell Support.
5. 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. Exterior area below fire should be kept clear for two hundred feet (200') from the fire building.
  - c. Command post should be a minimum of two hundred feet (200') from the fire building unless other conditions warrant greater (i.e. terrorists, bombs, etc.).
  - d. For rescue purposes, there are generally approximately one hundred (100) occupants per floor in High Rise buildings.
  - e. Elevators should not be used.
  - f. Initial fire attack crew(s) will need relief in twenty (20) minutes (this includes the time it takes to ascend to the fire floor).
6. Communications
  - 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.

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7. Operations

- a. Locate fire – leaving one member in lobby to establish lobby control if possible.
- b. Prepare for standpipe operation. Pump to both standpipe and sprinkler system according to the buildings system.
- c. If evacuation is necessary, you may be able to move occupants to a safe area, rather than evacuating everyone out by way of the lobby.
- d. A command post should be established and other command operational positions (i.e. divisions, safety) should 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) for floors below the top floor.
- f. If you must ventilate vertically using stairwells, make sure escape is not cut off for anyone.
- g. If investigating an alarm, a fire extinguisher will be taken with the company(s) investigating the floor(s) or area(s).