

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.26

SPRINKLED, STANDPIPED, AUXILLIARY EQUIPPED BLDGS.

1. Sprinklers: Upon Arrival

- a. Give a condition report.
- b. Continue size-up.
- c. Determine exact location of the fire:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Unless it is known for sure that private mains provide an adequate supply, engines should be connected to city hydrants (non-private), if available.
- d. 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.

2. Sprinklers: “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 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.
 - Evacuate the building of all personnel.
 - Close up building as tightly as possible to limit the air supply available to the fire.
 - Connect an engine to the FDC and pump into the system.
 - 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.
 - 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
 - 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.
 - Keep a person posted 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.

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3. Standpipe Outlets

When the decision has been made to utilize standpipe outlets, personnel should keep in mind limitations of such installations and be guided by the following:

- a. When utilizing a standpipe outlet:
 - Disconnect the existing hose line.
 - Remove any pressure-reducing device, which may be present.
 - Connect Fire Department hose (i.e. High-rise kit)

4. Dry Chemical, Carbon Dioxide, and Foam Systems

- a. In the case of local application systems inside a building, such as for a dip tank, do not turn water hose streams on the fire, since this is likely to splash the burning liquid out of the tank and cause it to spread on the water to the rest of the building. Consider hand hose systems or foam if available.
- b. If a total flooding system is operating, do not open up the enclosure until the extinguishing agent has fully extinguished the fire and any hot objects, which can act as sources of re-ignition.
- c. Before leaving the scene of an incident where a system has operated, and after you have completed your overhaul and salvage, be sure that steps are taken by management to restore the system to a condition of readiness.