

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Fireground Operations**

## **Fireground Operations, SOG 3.28**

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### **HIGH RISE FIRES**

1. Intent and Purpose

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

High Rise Fire guidelines should be followed on any structure that is three (3) stories and above.

3. Procedure

- First-In Company should enter the lobby and obtain whatever information is available and give a condition report.
- Locate the fire and relay information concerning the following:
  - ✓ Report location of fire (if known).
  - ✓ Safety of elevators (are they usable?).
- Attempt to determine if rescue problems exist.
- Call for additional help, if necessary.

4. Command Structure

- Establish a Command Post including the following as needed:
  - ✓ Resources Staging Area.
  - ✓ Lobby Control.
  - ✓ Operating Staging Area.
  - ✓ Stairwell Support.

5. Safety

- Establish lobby control early in the fire to control elevators, utilities, and running list of personnel in and out of the building.
- Exterior area below fire should be kept clear for two hundred feet (200') from the fire building.
- Command post should be a minimum of two hundred feet (200') from the fire building unless other conditions warrant greater distance.
- For rescue purposes, there are generally one hundred (100) occupants per floor in High Rise buildings.
- Elevators should not be used.
- 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

- Communications are usually poor in a “steel skeleton” building utilizing portable hand radios. Sometimes, moving to open window or roof will improve communications.

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- It may be possible to utilize building's intercom or phone system.

7. Operations

- Locate fire – leaving one member in lobby to establish lobby control if possible.
- Prepare for standpipe operation. Pump to both standpipe and sprinkler system according to the buildings system.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you must ventilate vertically using stairwells, make sure escape is not cut off for anyone.
- If investigating an alarm, a fire extinguisher will be taken with the company(s) investigating the floor(s) or area(s).

8. High-Rise Pack

- Movement of the High Rise pack from street level to the fire floor or area designated by the IC will be the responsibility of the personnel of each individual company.
- The High Rise pack will be carried into a building where a standpipe system exists or where the distance is too great for a pre-connected hose line.
- Hose in the High Rise pack should be utilized in place of the hose line provided on the building standpipe system. It should be connected to the standpipe below the fire floor.
- At minimum, equipment for the High Rise Pack should include: a nozzle, 100' – 1 3/4" hose, 2 1/2" to 1 3/4 " gated wye, a minimum of 3' of 3" hose, 2 spanner wrenches, and 2 1/2" gasket.