

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Aerial Company Operations

Objective: Establishes procedures by which Falmouth Fire-EMS Department will perform Ladder and/or Tower Company operations, and is intended to ensure optimum performance in such operations and maintain the integrity of safety for personnel.

General Information:

NOTE: These procedures WILL NOT apply in those cases where a predetermined setup has been designed, or in those instances where company officers determine they must act independently from them because of circumstances unique to the situation.

Guidelines:

A. 1st Arriving Aerial Company - Positioning

1. SMALL RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES - The 1st arriving aerial company will position itself so as to not block access to the building but to afford it strategic operative advantage for the removal of ground ladders, tools, and equipment. Such positioning should also take into account the use of the aerial for roof access, if necessary. Truck positioning should NOT impede the attack area of the engine company.

B. Large Residential, Apartments, and Commercial Structures

1. The 1st arriving aerial company will position itself in such a manner so as to support the attack through forcible entry, ventilation strategy, and laddering.
2. Such positioning should assume that the aerial would be used for roof access. Again, such positioning should not impede the attack area of the engine company.

C. Water Tower Positioning

1. In cases where the aerial is to be positioned for use as a water tower, the truck should be located ahead of the fire travel (unburned portion of building).
2. The Aerial should be reasonably located OUTSIDE the collapse zone of the building, preferably at the corners of the structure.

D. Aerial Operations - One (1) Aerial Response

1. Aerial Company personnel have a number of tasks to accomplish during fire operations. They may divide into two (2) teams - inside and outside.

i. The INSIDE team

1. Usually comprised of the Officer and 1 firefighter to gain entry to the building, assist in conducting a primary search for victims, and be available to the engine attack team to assist in the pulling of ceilings, walls, and checking other fire travel avenues.
2. The first job of this team must be to gain primary entry to the building for the engine company. The Officer should wear SCBA and take a flashlight and one (1) ax. The firefighter should bring a Halligan tool, flashlight, and a power saw if needed.
3. Once entry is achieved, the second job of this team shall be to conduct a quick search of the fire area and adjacent areas for victims. They will then assist the Engine Company with fire control and extinguishment.
4. When the fire is controlled, the Aerial Company Officer will coordinate the task of property conservation (salvage). The Aerial Company Officer will assure that property losses are minimized as much as possible.

ii. The OUTSIDE team

1. Composed of a second crew of two firefighters (sometimes called the ventilation FF and utility FF) has the responsibility of raising the ventilation ladder, vertical ventilating, laddering the building, and property conservation (salvage).
2. The outside team, upon arrival on the scene shall perform the following: Both firefighters will don SCBA and bring flashlights. One firefighter will get the ventilation saw, the other firefighter will get an ax and pike pole; both firefighters will get the ladder needed for ventilation and raise the ladder to the roof; the ventilation firefighter will take the saw and go to the roof to ventilate; The utility firefighter will take pike pole to the roof and assist ventilation.
3. NOTE: If the Aerial Company is supplied with a Positive Pressure Ventilation Fan (PPV), the following ventilation procedure may be modified to allow for effective positive pressure ventilation.
4. The outside team's primary responsibility during normal fire operations must be to determine the need to ventilate. Positive Pressure Ventilation will only be provided after coordination through the Incident Commander. The outside team shall automatically initiate either PPV ventilation or vertical ventilation on any structure in which smoke is visible, unless ordered "Do Not Ventilate" by the Incident Commander. Vertical

ventilation holes shall be a minimum of 4' X 4'. Any hole smaller is unacceptable. Thus, it is implied and advisable that the vent saw be used rather than the ax.

Conventional roof openings should be used whenever possible however, ventilation openings must be sufficient to vent smoke.

5. Gable vents ARE NOT to be removed unless ordered by the Incident Commander. Gable vents are just that - vents. Removing them does not significantly increase ventilation to the fire building but may cause the fire to race toward the gable end of the roof. Also, the effort required to remove the gable vent unnecessarily jeopardizes the safety of the firefighter who is doing it while working from a ladder. Therefore, we will not remove gable vents unless we absolutely have to. The outside team will be expected to cut large, roof ventilation holes to provide a chimney through which heat, smoke, and fire may vent. Thus, providing the engine attack team with a more tenable environment in which to work and giving relief to possible victims located within the structure. Laddering the remainder of the building shall be accomplished only after ventilation is completed, except where ladders are needed for rescue.
6. Aerial Company members working on a roof may be reassigned as "Roof Group" or "Ventilation Group" by command.
7. All members working on the roof of a fire building will use SCBA.
8. Utilities should be secured as soon as possible through command from the IC.

E. Rescue Needs

1. Search and rescue priorities are, of course, our primary consideration in emergencies. What we need to realize, however, is that search/rescue operations cannot be carried out effectively, in most cases, without coordinated fire attack and heat/smoke control.
2. Thus, the basic procedures outlined above will usually have to be done if successful search/rescue is to be accomplished. Abandonment of these duties in order to search/rescue can/may further injure a victim.

F. Summary Of Ladder Operations - One (1) Aerial Response

1. OUTSIDE TEAM and INSIDE TEAM
 - a. Both teams wear SCBA.
 - b. Both teams bring Flashlights
 - c. Ventilation FF gets saw or PPV
 - d. Force entry to Building.

- e. Utility FF gets ax, pike pole.
- f. Both conduct search.
- g. Both get ventilation ladder.
- h. Both assist fire control.
- i. Raise ventilation ladder.
- j. Both conduct salvage.
- k. Vent building.
- l. Both ladder building.
- m. Both conduct salvage.

NOTE: If you have a larger crew the fifth firefighter shall work with the inside team or stay out and assist the Aerial Operator. If going inside, the 5th firefighter, when leaving the truck, shall wear SCBA and take two (2) salvage covers to the building.

G. PROPERTY CONSERVATION (SALVAGE) PROCEDURES

1. It shall be the primary responsibility of the Aerial Company members assigned to "outside" and "inside" tasks, once those tasks are completed, to conduct property conservation (salvage) within the fire building. All measures should be taken to protect property from exposure to flames, heat, smoke, and water damage.
2. Use of salvage covers to complete this task is important. The Aerial Company Officer will be responsible for assuring that the property conservation task is addressed and completed.
3. It shall be the secondary responsibility of the 2nd Engine Company to perform property conservation when search/rescue tasks are completed and if there is no need for additional fire fighting. The engine Company should utilize salvage covers from the Truck Company in performing their task. Engine Company personnel must inform the Truck Company Officer of the number and placement of salvage covers prior to leaving the scene.
4. Once property conservation is completed, the Incident Commander should be notified by the Aerial Company Officer with the radio message, "SALVAGE COMPLETE."
5. The Incident Commander does not have to notify alarm concerning the completion of the property conservation task.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.