

Cape Elizabeth Fire Department

Policy & Procedure Manual

Policy: Chimney Fire Operations

Section: 7.200 Fire Suppression

Policy # 7.210

Date Effective: 02-22-2010

DEFINED:

A chimney fire is any fire condition that occurs in an enclosed chimney, and has not escaped the chimney. Fire that has spread outside an enclosed chimney device will be considered a structure fire operation.

GOALS:

1. Reduce potential for injury and death of emergency response personnel working on the fire ground
2. Prevent spread of and extinguish the fire
3. Secure and limit access to the scene
4. Overhaul & salvage property
5. Determine cause of fire

STANDARD DISPATCH RESPONSE:

Three (3) Engines, One (1) Ladder & Fire-Police Unit

STANDARD ADDITIONAL ALARMS RESPONSE:

All Hands: One (1) Engine, One (1) Rescue & Service-4 with Air Service Unit

Additional Alarms: Two (2) Engines & One (1) Ladder

1st ARRIVING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Scene Size-up & report back to dispatch
2. Establish Incident Command
3. Establish Safety Zones
4. Resource Deployment
5. Request notification of Utility Services as may be needed
6. Request additional resources as may be needed

1st ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Position Engine beyond the structure to allow for Ladder access whenever practical
2. Prepare hose line
3. Close the damper in the stove or chimney. This should reduce airflow to the fire and prevent smoke from backing up into the living space
4. Extinguishment & Removal of base fire source
5. For smaller fires, drop the agent from above the fire down the chimney, or into the fire from the fireplace or stove if there is adequate draft to pull the agent up the chimney
6. Use a dry chemical extinguisher from the clean out if there is a large amount of fire and you have adequate draft

Next Revision 1/1/2016

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7. Use the chains from the roof to knock down the burning debris or blockage in the chimney. It can be removed from the clean out at the base of the chimney. It should be placed into a metal bucket, cooled with water and disposed of outside
8. Salvage & Overhaul

2nd ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Locate & stand-by at closest hydrant, be ready to lay supply hose lines and pump from the hydrant whenever practical
2. Prepare to establish a water supply. (Hydrant **should be hooked** for all events for at least training purposes)
3. Establish backup line attack
4. May have to be initial 2 In 2 Out
5. Begin or assist in primary search
6. Await orders from Incident Commander

3rd ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Locate & Stand-by at next closest hydrant whenever practical
2. Leave Operator and bring rest of the crew to scene to be 2 In 2 Out and start gathering and setting up the RIT team equipment **unless otherwise assigned by the IC**

4th ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES (On the All Hands):

1. Assigned as RIT team **unless otherwise assigned by the IC**

1st ARRIVING LADDER COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Position unit for an aerial ladder set to the chimney whenever practical.
2. Ladder building & roof as necessary
3. Chain & sweep chimney

2nd+ ARRIVING LADDER COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Report to staging and await orders from the Incident Commander

FIRE-POLICE UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Meet with Police Officer in charge
2. Assign Officer to Traffic Sector
3. Direct all radio traffic to Traffic Sector
4. Limit access to scene, close roads as directed

ADDITIONAL ALARM APPARATUS:

Units responding on additional alarms may be instructed to report to a designated staging area(s), referred to as Level 2 Staging. If a Level 2 Staging area is not utilized, Command or Fire Alarm will contact units with instructions

1. Report to the Staging Area (Level 2) as designated by Command

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2. First arriving unit at the Staging Area, with an officer, will become the Staging Officer
3. The Staging Officer shall make unit assignments as directed by Command to a specific Group/Division Officers
4. The level of reserve units at staging shall be established by Command. The Staging Officer shall communicate with dispatch to maintain the desired apparatus level
The staging area should be located in a location out of view of the fire scene and large enough for the scale of the situation

ADDITIONAL ARRIVING PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Personnel that respond directly to the scene will be assigned by the Incident Commander (Manpower Officer) to a company and perform operations as directed. ***No personnel will perform operations without being assigned by the Incident Commander (Manpower) or without a company.***

If the Incident Commander does not declare a Manpower Pool all personnel will respond to the location of the 1st arriving Ladder in full personal protective equipment and await orders from the Incident Commander (Manpower Officer).

STAFF, DIVISION & GROUP OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:

When operating on multiple floors or in multiple sections of a building the Incident Commander should assign Division Officers as necessary.

When personnel permit the Incident Commander will appoint a Safety Officer to monitor the status of the structure and the personnel on the scene. The Safety Officer will notify the Incident Commander of any imminent building collapse and personnel injuries sustained while on the fire ground.

The Traffic Group Officer will direct all road closures and will be the point of contact for all Fire-Police Units.

NOTIFICATIONS:

The Incident Commander should notify the Communications Center of the following events:

1. Initial Size-up on arrival at the fire scene.
2. Modified Response Code
3. Additional Alarms
4. Additional Units & Resources
5. Firefighter "MAYDAY"
6. Fire Extinguished
7. Transfer of Incident Command
8. Recall

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RESOLUTION:

The Incident Commander will make an initial determination as to the cause of the fire or will ensure that the State Fire Marshal's Office is contacted. In the event of fires that involve fatalities the Police Department & State Fire Marshal's Office will always be notified.

The Incident Commander is responsible for the completion of all reports related to the incident.

The Staff, Division & Group Officers will forward all related reports to the Incident Commander for the incident report.

All personnel will remain at the fire scene until the Incident Commander releases them and their company. Personnel will return to their Station and ensure that all apparatus & equipment is returned to service.

The Incident Commander will request a recall of the alarm when all units have cleared the scene and have been returned to service.

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APPENDIX 1

- SCBA shall be worn on the roof or when working in a smoke-filled environment.
- Water should only be used inside the chimney as a last resort, as the rapid cooling to the lining of the chimney will cause it to crack and render it useless. If water must be used, great care should be exercised as to use only the smallest amount needed to create enough steam to extinguish the fire.
- Any time CEFD works in the living space of a building, great care should be used to prevent damage to the carpeting or flooring. Salvage covers should be used to prevent damage to the floors where removal of soot or other debris is taking place. Communicating with the occupants of the building during this will greatly enhance our image and make things easier in the future.
- The first priority at a chimney fire will be to determine if the fire is contained within the chimney. This can be accomplished by checking the walls around the chimney on each floor and the attic space. The outside team should look for smoke emitting from around the base of the chimney at the roofline.
- If the fire is suspected to be beyond the confines of the chimney (i.e. in the walls, ceiling or attic) the officer shall request a box be assigned. The use of a Thermal Imaging camera is highly recommended to facilitate the locating of higher temperature areas. Walls should be opened up and examined for extension of the fire with charged hand lines in place.