

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 Emergency Operations
Section: 202 Fire & Rescue
Subject: 202.05 Emergency Evacuations



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's procedure for signaling an emergency evacuation

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

It is a principal Command responsibility to continually evaluate and determine if the building is tenable for interior operations. This ongoing evaluation of structural/fire conditions requires the input of officers advising their respective sectors and of sectors advising Command of the conditions in their local area of operation. Structures of other than fire resistive/heavy timber construction are not designed to withstand the effects of fire, and can be expected to fail after approximately twenty (20) minutes of heavy fire involvement. If after ten/fifteen (10-15) minutes of interior operations heavy fire conditions still exist, Command should initiate a careful evaluation of structural conditions and should be prepared to withdraw interior crews and resort to a defensive position. If there is any doubt, error on the side of safety.

This signal must be known and understood by all personnel. When heard, evacuation must be immediate and rapid. Do not try to remove hose or other equipment unless it is necessary to hasten your retreat. The signal should be a combination of the following:

1. A verbal order over the radio, repeated several times, to evacuate the structure immediately due to a possible collapse.
2. All apparatus operators shall sound their air horns for 10 seconds in length followed by 10 seconds of silence. This is to be repeated until all personnel are out of danger.
3. A personnel accountability report (PAR) will then be taken by company officers and reported to command. Remember, if you hear the evacuation order, drop what you are doing and get out the quickest available route. Once out of the structure, immediately report to the Officer in Charge.