

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 **Emergency Operations**
Section: 202 **Fire & Rescue**
Subject: 202.21 **Roof Operations**



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 05/22/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's procedure for roof operations

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

Safe roof operations are paramount and the extent of the fire and any signs of weakness must be considered before committing personnel above the fire. Constant re-evaluation of roof safety must be maintained throughout roof operations. Time and fire conditions will be constantly working to weaken the roof.

The first arriving unit and the Incident Commander should evaluate roof conditions prior to committing personnel. Aerial apparatus should be strategically placed to allow for safe access to and from the roof. Crews must enter the roof from an established safe area and must have a secondary means of escape. The first personnel reaching the roof must quickly evaluate conditions to assure the roof is structurally sound before attempting to work on it. Once on the roof, personnel must evaluate their route and progress as they proceed.

Bow String Roofs, residential tile roofs and commercial tile roofs – During fire operations, no fire fighters shall operate on commercial tile roofs. Due to the lightweight truss construction and massive weight of roof tiles, it is unsafe to operate on these roofs.

As a general rule, if an aerial is used to set a firefighter on the roof, it should be done on the peak for better footing. Always sound the roof before stepping out of the bucket.

The officer, or firefighter, in charge of the roof operations must ensure a second means of egress toward the nearest unburned area of the structure.

Determine a safe working surface. The first firefighter off the ladder must aggressively sound the roof prior to stepping on it. Any sign of weakness (spongy, soft, glowing pipes, melting tar...) should eliminate anyone from accessing the roof. Keep the number of

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firefighters on the roof to the minimum necessary to complete the assigned task. Extra personnel and the additional weight may compromise the situation.

Continually monitor the roof structure, fire conditions and radio traffic. Deteriorating conditions inside may indicate a need to vacate the roof. Provide progress reports to Command and advise when the assigned tasks are completed. All roof operations personnel shall wear full protective clothing and equipment when operating above a fire, including SCBA with face pieces connected at all times.