

SOG# 507-17	Standard Operating Guideline		
	Cumberland Road Fire Department Inc.	Approved By	
		Steven Parrish, Fire Chief	
		Effective Date	Revised Date
	Responses to Structure Fires	8-17-2023	12/1/2025

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines and operational procedures to be used by the Cumberland Road Fire Department during responses to a reported structure fire. The intent is to ensure a safe, coordinated, and efficient operation consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS) as defined in SOG #501-1.

2. SCOPE


This guideline applies to all members of the Cumberland Road Fire Department and participating automatic-aid agencies responding to structure fire incidents within the department's jurisdiction or by mutual/automatic-aid request.

3. REFERENCES

- NFPA 1561: Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System
- NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program
- NFPA 1710 / 1720: Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134: Respiratory Protection
- Cumberland Road Fire Department SOG #501-1: Incident Command System
- NFPA 1407: Standard for Training Rapid Intervention Crews

4. DEFINITIONS

- Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for the overall management of the incident.
- Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): A dedicated crew available for the immediate rescue of firefighters operating in an IDLH environment.
- IDLH: Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health atmosphere.
- 2-In/2-Out: OSHA requirement that at least two personnel enter an IDLH atmosphere and maintain visual or voice contact with each other while at least two personnel remain outside for immediate assistance or rescue.
- Accountability Officer: Person assigned to track personnel operating at the incident.

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5. RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS

Initial Alarm:

Moderate Fire Hazards shall receive a minimum response of:

Cumberland Road FD: 2 Engines, 1 Service Unit, 1 Chief Officer

Automatic Aid: 4 Engines (per response plans)

Additional units as requested by IC

High Fire Hazards shall receive a minimum response of:

Cumberland Road FD: 2 Engines, 1 Service, Unit 1 Chief Officer

Automatic Aid: 7 Engines, 1 Truck

Additional units as requested by IC

Additional units shall be automatically dispatched based on specific departmental response plans, Counties Working Fire and/or Hot Weather SOG.

Command Officer:

First arriving Officer will establish Incident Command per SOG #501-1.

Upon arrival of the first unit a "size-up" shall be given. The size-up shall include but not limited to:

- Occupancies Type (single/multi family, strip mall, etc.)
- Number of stories
- Residential or Commercial
- Conditions showing from exterior (fire, smoke, nothing, etc.)
- State the mode of operation (investigation, offensive, defensive, transitional)

Apparatus Placement:

First Engine: Positions for fire attack; secures water supply if possible.

Second Engine: Establishes water supply if not completed by first; supports fire attack or exposure line.

Service Unit: Provides support functions (utilities, tools, ladders, air bottles, lighting, etc.).

Auto-Aid Engines: Assigned per IC direction (RIT, secondary line, exposure protection, ventilation, etc.).

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6. STATION RESPONSE AND CONTACTING COMMAND

Personnel arriving at the station after the initial units have departed shall staff any remaining apparatus if available.

Once staffed, the unit shall contact Command via radio (ops channel) and advise of their status, including:

Unit identification number

Number of personnel onboard

Notification that the unit is responding

Example: "Command from Engine 511, responding with three (3) personnel."

Upon receiving contact from the additional unit, the Incident Commander shall determine the current incident type.

If the incident has been confirmed or remains classified as a Fire – Structure, Command shall advise the unit to proceed to the scene.

If the incident has been determined not to be a Fire – Structure, Command may cancel the unit and direct them to return to service.

All responding units shall maintain accountability and ensure accurate documentation of response and staffing in the incident report.

7. RESPONSE TIME OBJECTIVES

The department's deployment and response objectives shall be established in compliance with NFPA 1420, ISO standards and evaluation criteria.

First arriving engine – within 320 seconds (5:20) 90% of incidents.

Second arriving engine – within 560 seconds (9:20) 90% of incidents.

Service Unit/Truck Company – 560 seconds (9:20) 90% of incidents.

8. INCIDENT COMMAND AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All incidents will operate under the Incident Command System (ICS).

The first arriving officer shall establish command and provide a size-up.

Accountability tags shall be collected at the accountability point prior to entering the hazard zone.

The IC shall maintain accountability through assigned Accountability Officers or sector officers.

A Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) shall be conducted:

- At 20-minute intervals
- Following any Mayday or emergency evacuation
- At strategic benchmarks (fire under control, primary search complete, etc.).

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9. OPERATIONS AND TACTICAL PRIORITIES

Incident priorities shall follow the sequence:

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation
4. Safety of Personnel

Tactical Benchmarks:

- Establish Water Supply
- Primary Search
- Fire Containment
- Secondary Search
- Ventilation
- Salvage and Overhaul
- Loss Control and Investigation

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10. SAFETY AND REHABILITATION

Full structural firefighting protective clothing, including SCBA, shall be worn at all structure fire incidents unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander. Members performing exterior tasks—such as raising ladders or operating hose lines outside the structure—are not required to use respiratory protection, provided they remain in a hazard-free atmosphere.

Personnel responding to working fires shall report to the Personnel Staging area in full protective equipment, including SCBA (mask may remain off until assigned).

All units shall operate under the direction of Command; free-lancing is strictly prohibited. A Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) will be assigned by the Incident Commander at all structure fires.

Two-In/Two-Out shall be established by the Incident Commander and in place prior to initiating interior firefighting operations, unless a confirmed or potential life hazard is indicated within the structure.

A secondary means of egress shall be established on all structure fires by R.I.T. or assigned personnel. For multi-level structures, a separate secondary egress point shall be established for each level by properly placing ladders to allow crews a safe exit route.

Air monitoring shall be conducted and the atmosphere confirmed clear before removal of SCBA is authorized.

A Safety Officer shall be assigned at all working fires as soon as staffing permits.


A Rehab Sector shall be established at all working incidents to monitor and support firefighter health in accordance with NFPA 1584. All personnel shall report to Rehab after any SCBA cylinder change, periods of significant exertion, or upon request of the Incident Commander.

11. Engine Company Operations

An Engine Company shall be trained and prepared to perform any function expected to be conducted on the fireground. These functions include, but are not limited to, **fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, salvage, and overhaul.**

The **first-due company** shall deploy hose lines and initiate fire suppression operations. An **aggressive interior attack** will be initiated whenever conditions permit.

The **initial attack line** shall be a minimum of 1¾; however, a **2½-inch line** should be considered when fire conditions require increased water flow. A **secondary (backup) line**, also a minimum of

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1¾-inch in diameter and **50 feet longer than the attack line**, shall be deployed to support and protect attack crews.

The first hose line must be positioned **between the fire and any known or potential victims**, providing protection for their avenues of escape. An attack from the **interior, unburned side** generally places attack crews in the best position to accomplish this objective.

Do not operate exterior fire streams into a structure where an **offensive interior attack** is in progress. Likewise, **do not operate streams into vertical ventilation openings** during offensive operations, as this may endanger interior crews.

12. Truck Company Operations

The Truck Company shall position the apparatus to allow for immediate deployment of the aerial device on any structure greater than one (1) story. Proper placement should ensure maximum reach, and operational effectiveness while maintaining access for other responding units.

Upon arrival at the incident, the Incident Commander will determine the need for initial Truck Company operations, including but not limited to ventilation, forcible entry, primary search, ladder placement, and roof access. The Truck Company shall be prepared to initiate these tasks promptly when directed by Command.

13. Search and Rescue

A **primary search** shall be conducted at all structure fires when conditions allow for interior entry. A primary search is a rapid, systematic sweep of the entire structure to verify the location, removal, and/or safety of all occupants. **Time is the critical factor** during a primary search.

A **secondary search** is performed after initial fire control and ventilation have been completed. This search is a slower, more detailed examination of the interior to ensure no occupants were overlooked. **Thoroughness rather than speed** is the critical factor in a secondary search. The secondary search **must be conducted by a different crew** than the one that performed the primary search.

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14. COMMUNICATIONS

The dispatch center will assign a dedicated operation channel for all structure fire incidents. All radio traffic will follow department radio protocols with clear, concise communication. Mayday transmissions shall follow the “MAYDAY – LUNAR” format:

L: Location
U: Unit
N: Name
A: Assignment
R: Resources needed

15. MUTUAL AND AUTOMATIC AID

All automatic-aid companies shall integrate into the Incident Command System and operate under the command of the IC. Mutual-aid requests beyond the initial assignment shall be coordinated through the IC or the Communications Center.

16. UTILITIES


The Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that all necessary utilities—including electrical service, water, and gas—are secured prior to terminating command of the incident.

17. RED CROSS

The Incident Commander shall assess the need for American Red Cross assistance. If assistance is required, the IC shall notify Cumberland County Dispatch and provide the number of displaced adults and children. It is best practice for CRFD personnel to remain on scene until the Red Cross has made contact with displaced occupants.

18. ORIGIN AND CAUSE DETERMINATION

The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for determining the origin and cause of the fire. If the IC is uncertain or believes the fire may be suspicious in nature, the IC shall request a Fire Investigator from the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office.

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19. POST-INCIDENT OPERATIONS

IC shall ensure all equipment is accounted for, and apparatus are returned to service promptly. Post-incident critiques shall be conducted for all working structure fires to identify operational and safety improvements.

Incident documentation shall be completed in accordance with departmental reporting requirements.

20. REVISION AND REVIEW

This guideline shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to maintain compliance with NFPA standards, OSHA regulations, and departmental best practices.