

	Ashippun Fire Department		Policy #400.004	
	Standard Operating Guidelines			
	Subject:	Chimney Fires		
	Initial Date:	9/15/15	Revised Date:	
Approved By:	Fire Chief Deonne Eske			

**PURPOSE:**

This guideline is written to describe a consistent, effective method to deal with chimney fires.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. All officers of the Ashippun Fire Department have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All members of the Ashippun Fire Department have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

**GUIDELINE:**

1. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) shall be observed at all emergency responses.
2. The standard response to any incident identified as a chimney fire will be in accordance with *Ashippun Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline: Incident Response* and treated as a structure fire until proven otherwise.
3. This (and any other) SOG shall be considered a guideline. As conditions may arise which have not been anticipated, department personnel are expected to exercise initiative and independent judgment when conditions warrant.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. If during initial size up, the Incident Commander determines that a fire is contained within the chimney flue, the following guidelines shall be followed. If the fire has extended beyond the flue to the structure, *Ashippun Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline Structure Fires* shall be followed.

2. Extinguish fire in the firebox, using a SMALL quantity of water, or **loose** dry chemical. Do not use an extinguisher, as pressurized contents may blow embers out of firebox. Close firebox dampers if available. Ensure that gas log lighters or similar appliances are turned off.

3. Spread a salvage cover in front of stove or fireplace, and along hallways, etc.

4. Establish horizontal ventilation. Use positive pressure ventilation, and open a window or door as close as possible to the heating appliance.

5. Reduce or eliminate the flow of air to the flue by closing dampers, etc.

6. When adequate manpower is available, the building's roof should be laddered, preferably simultaneously with above steps. Personnel advancing to the roof should take the chimney bombs as well as the chimney chains. Once the fire in the firebox has been extinguished, the fire in the flue may be put out using dry chemical powder. Large quantities of water may cool the flue too quickly, causing cracking and will generate a significant clean up problem.

7. While communicating with crew at fire box roof crew may begin dropping weighted chimney chains. While using the chains make special attention to avoiding the flue pipe from causing damage.

8. When all visible fire has been extinguished, check for extension beyond the chimney. Standard overhaul procedures may be required to expose and extinguish hidden fire.

9. The Incident Commander shall advise the occupant to ensure that the appliance and flue are thoroughly inspected and approved by a qualified person before using it again.

**SAFETY:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the each officer to ensure that their company's personnel follow appropriate safety practices.
2. Each firefighter shall be responsible for following safe practices personally, and to ensure that any potential unsafe situations are immediately brought to the attention of their officer.