

Structure Fire Response — Residential

VERSION
v2

EFFECTIVE
March 3, 2026

REVIEW BY
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STATUS
In effect

1. PURPOSE

To establish a standard response model for residential structure fires that assigns command, defines initial tactical priorities, and sets the conditions under which interior operations are initiated or withdrawn. This procedure applies to all Fairview Fire Department personnel and to mutual aid companies operating under Fairview command.

2. SCOPE

This procedure covers one- and two-family dwellings and residential structures of three stories or fewer. Commercial occupancies, multi-family buildings above three stories, and structures with known hazardous materials are governed by their own procedures.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The first-arriving Captain assumes Incident Command and retains it until formally relieved. Command is transferred face to face or by radio with a situation report, and the transfer is announced to dispatch.

3.1 Incident Commander

Completes a 360-degree size-up before committing crews, establishes the incident action plan, assigns a safety officer on any working fire, and maintains a personnel accountability report at each benchmark and at twenty-minute intervals.

3.2 First-Due Engine Company

Engine 1 secures a water supply, advances the initial attack line to the seat of the fire, and reports conditions found. The company officer confirms crew integrity before entry and maintains it throughout.

3.3 Truck Company

Ladder 1 performs forcible entry, primary search, and coordinated vertical or horizontal ventilation as directed by Command. Ventilation is not performed until an attack line is charged and in position.

4. PROCEDURES

The following sequence applies to a reported residential structure fire with occupants unaccounted for.

4.1 Dispatch and Response

A full first alarm assignment responds: two engines, one truck, and a chief officer. Units mark responding within sixty seconds and mark on scene with a brief initial radio report describing building size, occupancy type, and conditions showing.

4.2 Size-Up and Command

The first-arriving officer transmits an on-scene report, completes a 360-degree survey where the structure permits, and declares an operational mode: offensive, defensive, or investigative. The declared mode is repeated to dispatch and to all responding units.

4.3 Water Supply

The first-due engine establishes supply from the nearest hydrant. Where hydrant spacing or flow is inadequate, Command requests tender mutual aid on the second alarm and establishes a static water supply operation.

4.4 Fire Attack

The initial attack line is advanced to the interior with a minimum crew of three. A backup line of equal or greater capacity is in place before any crew advances beyond the entry point. Command confirms both lines are charged before committing to interior operations.

4.5 Search and Rescue

Primary search is conducted in coordination with fire attack and reported by area as completed. Secondary search is conducted after the fire is controlled and reported separately.

4.6 Transition to Defensive Operations

Command orders withdrawal on any of the following: loss of structural integrity, failure of water supply, inability to maintain accountability, or fire conditions exceeding the flow capacity of deployed lines. Withdrawal is announced by emergency traffic, followed by a personnel accountability report.

5. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

No property is worth a firefighter's life. Interior operations are justified only by a savable occupant or a savable structure.

5.1 Rapid Intervention

A rapid intervention crew is established on every working structure fire before interior crews are committed beyond the entry point, and is not reassigned to other tasks while interior operations continue.

5.2 Accountability

All personnel operating within the hazard zone are tracked by the accountability system. Crew integrity is maintained at all times; no member operates alone within the structure.

5.3 Rehabilitation

Members are cycled through rehabilitation after two air cylinders or forty-five minutes of work in the hazard zone, whichever comes first. Vital signs are recorded before members are returned to duty.

6. REFERENCES

NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program. NFPA 1561, Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System. NFPA 1710 / NFPA 1720, Standards for the Organization

and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations. NFPA 1142, Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Firefighting.

APPROVAL

Chief M. Alvarez

APPROVING OFFICER

March 3, 2026

DATE