

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Fire Sprinklered Buildings

SECTION III, 11.0 – 11.1

February 26, 2014

Approved by R. Dale Horne – Fire Chief

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11.0 PURPOSE

Successful fire department operations in buildings protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems depends upon firefighters prior knowledge of the installed system, proper support of the system in the event of a fire and, insuring that systems are returned to service after activation.

11.1 PROCEDURE

- a. Inspections and Code Enforcement
 - i) Fire sprinklers will be required in accordance with the *International Building Code* or applicable state code
 - ii) Sprinklered buildings will be regularly inspected to insure
 1. Water supply valves are open
 2. Fire department connection is accessible
 3. There are no obstructions to sprinkler heads
 4. Annual inspections by licensed contractor have been performed
 - iii) Preplan Inspections will be conducted on a regular basis to collect information about the building, sprinkler system, and building hazards
- b. Fire Ground Operations
 - i) First due engine responds to Division A for investigation or initial fire attack
 1. Establish Command
 2. Determine fire condition
 - ii) Second due engine responsible for supplying sprinkler system
 1. Utilization of 5" hose from hydrant to engine should be maximized and use of 2 ½" or 3" hose to FD connection minimized
 - a) 13R systems will be supplied by one 1 ¾" hose
 2. If the sprinkler system is operating as indicated by alarm bell OR if there is obvious signs of fire (smoke, flame); charge system to 150psi and maintain
 - a) 13R systems will be pumped at 100 psi
 3. Keep IC advised of any unusual water supply changes
 - a) Increasing RPMs to maintain 150 PDP
 - b) Decreasing residual pressure
 - iii) IC will send a firefighter with a radio to the sprinkler riser to determine proper operation of riser and that all supply valves are open

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- iv) It is expected that operating sprinklers in a building that is on fire will result in poor visibility due to water spray and steam production. Personnel operating in these conditions should exercise extreme caution to avoid fall / tripping and similar hazards.
- v) Handlines should be advanced as necessary to supplement fire sprinkler discharge and complete extinguishment
 1. The engine supplying the sprinkler system should NOT be used for handline operations
- c. Post-Fire or Sprinkler Discharge Operations
 - i) Effective fire sprinkler operation is expected to control or completely extinguish a fire. After complete extinguishment has been confirmed IC's priority must be given to property conservation from water and minimizing ongoing water damage.
 1. Engine supplying sprinkler connection can be shut down but should remain connected to system throughout overhaul operation
 - ii) The firefighter assigned to monitor the sprinkler riser will be directed by IC to secure the flow of water to the riser by use of PIV or OS&Y valve
 - iii) The firefighter will open 2" drain valve
 - iv) If open sprinkler head(s) are accessible, attempt to install sprinkler wedges or tongs to stop flow of water
 - v) Use salvage covers to cover property that can be damaged by discharging water
 1. In a multi-story structure make sure floors below and compartments adjacent to the fire area are inspected for potential water damage
 - vi) Utilize floor drains if available to drain water
 - vii) It is the property owner's responsibility to return the system to operation
 1. At the IC's discretion, the AFD may replace open head(s) and re-activate a wet-pipe system
 2. If there will be a delay in returning the system to service, the property owner shall be responsible for posting a fire watch at the property