	West Fargo Fire & Rescue Standard Operating Guideline			
	Subject: STRUCTURE FIRES			Authorized by:
	Section: OPERATIONS	Date Authorized:	Date Reviewed:	D. Fuller Fire Chief
	Number: 209	8/5/2015	11/1/2017	

**Intent**

The intent of this SOG is to establish procedures to take at the scene of residential or commercial structure fires.

**Definitions**

*Transitional Attack* – a fire attack methodology based on current research

*Residential Structures*- a one or two family house

*Commercial Structures* – multifamily dwellings, mixed use and commercial use occupancies

*High Rise Structures* – any building over five stories in height

**Guideline**

*One or Two Family Structures*

The first arriving engine shall position itself for initial attack, leaving the front of the structure and clear access for the ladder truck if needed. Two lines shall be stretched from the initial arrival truck; one for fire attack and one for the backup team. Access for the ladder truck is achieved by leaving the curb directly in front of the house open, staging the first engine past the front of the house. The second due engine shall establish a water supply at the nearest hydrant, (if water supply not already established by 1<sup>st</sup> arriving) and lay a large diameter hose (LDH) to the attack engine.

*Commercial Structures*


The first arriving engine shall position itself for initial attack, making sure to stay outside of any collapse zone (1 ½ times the height of the building) of the building, while leaving room for the ladder truck to have access to the building. Selection of an attack line is up to the initial incident commander, but commercial fires lend themselves to fire flows over 350 gpm based on the National Fire Academy (NFA) Fire Flow calculation of length x width / three. To achieve the fire flow required, multiple attack lines may have to be used, including 2 ½ hand-lines. At a minimum, two lines shall be stretched from the initial arrival truck; one for fire attack and one for the backup team. In defensive fires, the ladder truck shall be set in a manner that allows for quick repositioning or withdrawal in emergency situations. This can be achieved by ensuring the truck is not blocked in by supply line or other engines, and backed into the space to operate.

*SLICE-RS*

The West Fargo Fire Department has adopted the SLICER-S methodology for fire attack. This methodology allows for the safest mode of fire attack for members of the department when the high heat release rate of modern combustible consumer products are taken into account, along with modern construction features. The first five actions are designed to be completed in sequential order. The last two are actions of opportunity, to be completed if needed and whenever possible.

*Size Up*

First arriving officers shall conduct a 360 degree size up to the extent possible. While conducting this size up, special attention should be given to the fire conditions, the building, and any special hazards. A thermal

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imaging camera (TIC) should also be used in the 360, to help identify the exhaust portion of the fire flow path.

***Locate the Fire***

In locating the fire, it should be noted that with modern building materials, the possibility exists that the fire may be in a ventilation limited stage, even with minimal smoke showing. Locating the fire is the best way to help formulate a plan of attack in the safest possible manner.

***Identify and control the flow path***

After locating the fire, look for the inlet and exhaust of the flow path. The inlet allows for the rapid infusion of cool air into the seat of the fire. The exhaust allows for the expulsion of products of combustion, smoke, and super-heated gas. Sometimes, the inlet and exhaust may share the same opening. In these cases, ensuring a secondary opening isn't made (ventilation) is critical to keeping the progress of the fire in check. In times when the inlet and exhaust are at different ends of the fire, controlling the inlet by shutting a door allows for temperature reduction and slowing the fire's progress.

***Cool the fire from the safest location***

Stretch a 1 ¾ line to apply water the fire from outside the building, utilizing a flow of at least 150 gpm. This application of water provides enough heat absorption to “reset” a fire from fully developed to incipient, essentially reversing the fire's progress from an environment where top to bottom fire conditions exist; to an environment here just the fuel packages are involved.

***Extinguish the fire***

After cooling the fire, an interior fire attack can commence if the conditions allow it. A three to four minute window exists after the “resetting” of the fire where conditions should be safer for firefighters entering the IDLH.

***Rescue***

This action is completed when a savable victim is located or strong intelligence exists that a victim is located in a tenable environment, separate from the area involved in fire. Rescues shall be conducted per SOG 207 Risk Management.

***Salvage***

This action is completed at the discretion of the IC. It will not deter crews from a fire attack, or the primary and secondary search. Salvage is, however, an important aspect of customer service and a hallmark of a professional fire company. After primary actions are completed, the IC will consider initiation of salvage operations.