

Shepherd Tri-Township Fire Department FIRES - CHIMNEY

Procedure:

This procedure shall apply to all reported chimney fires. The Incident Commander (IC) has full responsibility for assuring compliance with this procedure. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests solely with the incident commander who will bear responsibility for the results of any deviations.

The following procedure shall be used:

1. Apparatus approach and positioning: Apparatus and personal vehicles responding to a chimney fire shall be positioned so as not to jeopardize safety, or interfere with operations.
 - Upwind from the involved structure to minimize smoke exposure to the apparatus and the apparatus operator.
 - Spot the apparatus at least 1 1/2 times the height of the involved structure away.
 - On the same side of the road as the involved structure.
2. All arriving personnel will report to a staging area as defined by the incident commander. If command has not been established, responding personnel will stage at the first arriving engine. All operational assignments will be made from the staging area. When an operation is completed, assigned personnel shall report back to staging.
3. A safety perimeter shall be established around the involved structure. The area of the safety perimeter shall be all area within 1 1/2 times the highest part of the structure. All personnel operating within this perimeter shall be in full protective clothing. There may be situations and certain special operations that may deem the use of SCBAs. Firefighters and command should be monitoring fire fighting conditions at all times and command will have responsibility for declaring the need for operating SCBAs.
4. Inspect the outside of the chimney for cracks and breaks in the mortar or brick. Inspect the entire length of the chimney for fire extension and proper clearances through structural members.
5. Prepare the inside of the structure for firefighter traffic and for removing the fire load. Tarps should be placed as walkways for the firefighters and canvas tarp should be placed around the fireplace or wood stove to protect the flooring.
6. Set up ventilation to remove any smoke that may build up in the structure.

7. When ventilation and tarps are in place, remove the fire load in the fireplace or the wood stove. Place the fire load in the metal boxes carried on the engines. Remove the fire load and place it outside the structure in a safe area and extinguish.
8. Ladder the structure's roof in a safe manner and while working off of a roof ladder, inspect the chimney from above. The firefighter doing the inspection should be looking for:
 - Fire on the flue walls
 - Creosote build-up on the flue walls
 - Cracked or damaged flue
9. If a fire exists on the flue walls, the inside of the structure should be prepared for a powder drop from above by placing a canvas tarp over the opening of the fireplace or wood stove.
10. Powder extinguishment bags should then be dropped from above. The chimney should be re-inspected; and if the fire persists, the procedure should be repeated.
11. Command retains the authority to perform other operations not outlined in this procedure in an attempt to extinguish the chimney fire that is not extinguished by the above methods.

Procedure overview/Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to assure the efficient extinguishment of chimney fires while maintaining the highest level of safety for all responding personnel.