



Rogers Fire Department
Tactics
504 Fire Stream Management
LAST REVISED: Aug 2009
Page 1 of 3



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide policy to incident commanders regarding fire suppression and the associated modes of operations.

POLICY

Selecting appropriate sized fire streams is critical to fire containment and extinguishment.

When in the offensive attack mode, hose lines should be advanced inside the fire building in order to control access to halls, stairways, or other vertical and horizontal channels through which people and fire may travel.

- ◆ The first hose line is placed between the fire and persons endangered by it.
- ◆ When no life is endangered, the first stream is placed between the fire and the most severe exposure.
- ◆ The second line is taken to protect either the primary or secondary means of egress (always bearing in mind the presence of personnel operating in opposing positions).
- ◆ Whenever possible, position hose lines in a manner and direction that supports rescue activities, begins confinement, and protects exposures.

It is the responsibility of the second-in engine company to structural fires to provide and/or address adequate water supply. Even with this standing order, each engine company should still attempt to provide its own water supply, if necessary.

The initial attack hose line and stretch is the most important. Firefighters should use the size hose line that will eventually be required from the beginning; if you need a big line, provide it from the outset. If there is any doubt from the beginning, go to the next larger size hose line. If a small line is used for a fast attack, consider backing it up with a larger line. Beware of automatically going for the size you most often use or the size that is fastest/easiest.

When you change commitment from offensive to defensive mode and pull hand lines out of the fire building, do not continue to operate them as hand lines – convert them to exterior master streams. Give priority to water supply and application. The operating positions of such streams must also be evaluated.



Rogers Fire Department
Tactics
504 Fire Stream Management
LAST REVISED: Aug 2009
Page 2 of 3



Fire control forces must consider the characteristics of fire streams. Choose the proper nozzle and stream for the task:

- **SOLID STREAM** – more penetration, reach, and striking power; less steam conversion.
- **FOG** – more gross head absorption/expansion; shorter reach
- **1 ¾” LINES** – speed, mobility, and variable volume, depending on pump pressure with automatic nozzle
- **2 ½” LINES** – higher volume for knockdown; slow/difficult to move
- **MASTER STREAM** – mostly stationary, slow to set up; maximum water

Offensive attack activities must be highly mobile. As their movement slows down they necessarily become more defensive in nature and effect. Effective offensive operations are aggressive.

Offensive attack positions should achieve an effect on the fire quickly. Consequently, back-up judgments should also be developed quickly. If firefighters are actively fighting fire from an offensive attack position and the desired result (fire extinguishment or containment) is not occurring, two options are available. Firefighters may either back out and take a defensive approach or redeploy hose lines in another offensive position.

If you commit attack crews to inside operations, do not operate exterior streams into the same building, particularly ladder pipes. Do not combine interior and exterior attacks in the same building. It may be necessary to coordinate pulling crews out of the building while an exterior heavy stream knockdown is made.

Truck companies shall use a fog tip on all ladder pipes. Engine companies shall have their deck gun finished with a smoothbore tip.

Company officers must assume responsibility for the effectiveness of their fire streams. Such officers must maintain an awareness of where fire streams are going, their effectiveness, and then report the general operational characteristics back to the Division/Group Leader or Command. Company officers must be aware that nozzle diameter adjustment or nozzle tip reduction may be necessary in order to produce an effective stream.

Ladder pipes are particularly useful and effective when operated on large, often self-ventilated, fires. A good general rule is that you have written-off the building (or portion) when you initiate ladder pipe operations and you are essentially in a defensive mode. All companies operating on the fireground should be advised before ladder pipes go into operation.



Rogers Fire Department

Tactics

504 Fire Stream Management

LAST REVISED: Aug 2009

Page 3 of 3



Do not apply water to the outside of a roof. Such water application may offer effective exposure protection; but, if part of the roof is intact, it will shed water just like it was built to do and will prevent water from reaching the seat of the fire. This is particularly true of ladder pipe operations.