

Halifax Fire Department

October 21, 2003

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Operations in Sprinklered Buildings

10.01 PURPOSE

- A. To establish a standard procedure for operations in sprinklered and standpipe buildings.

10.02 POLICY

- A. In the event that a structure equipped with a sprinkler or standpipe system is reported to be on fire (either by verbal or alarm system notification) the following operations have been established.

10.03 PROCEDURES

- A. The second arriving engine shall be responsible for connection of supply lines to the FDC; however, if the first arriving engine has the FDC at their location that engine should supply the system.
- B. The minimum fire department connection to the FDC shall not be less than two 2 1/2" hose lines.
- C. If a fire is in progress and sprinkler heads have been activated, one hundred fifty (150) psi should be provided to the FDC. If long lines are required (over 100 feet) between the engine and the FDC, the friction loss in the hose must be considered in your calculations.
- D. Unless it is known for sure that private mains provide an adequate supply, engines should be connected to town hydrants, if available.
- E. Send a firefighter with a radio to inspect the shut-off valve to:
 - 1. Determine if sprinklers are operating properly
 - 2. Open valve if it is closed.
 - 3. Shut off valve when Command decides sprinkler operations may be discontinued.
 - 4. Re open the valve in the event of a rekindle that is uncontrolled by hand lines.

- F. Usually, 1 ¾" hand lines are adequate fire streams in sprinklered buildings. However, when fires involve unusual hazards, high piled stock or large areas, 2 ½" hand lines should be considered.
- G. Observe the affect of the sprinkler system on the fire to determine:
 - 1. If the system is operating properly.
 - 2. The size and number of hose lines that may be needed to gain complete control and extinguishment.
- H. Insure that evacuation, search and other life safety measures are promptly completed at fires in buildings with sprinkler systems.
- I. Effective control of fires in sprinklered buildings requires proper ventilation. Whether such ventilation is accomplished by conventional means or by utilizing on site built-in automatic systems, the following steps must be accomplished:
 - 1. A firefighter with a radio must be sent to the shut off valve to stand by.
 - 2. Hose lines must be ready, charged and in position for confinement and control before sprinklers are shut off.
 - 3. Ladder Company personnel must be in position and should have affected the necessary conventional opening(s) or be prepared to initiate available on site automatic systems before shutting off the sprinklers.
 - 4. The Incident Commander must insure coordinated communications.
 - 5. When all of the above have been accomplished, the sprinkler system should be shut down slowly to allow proper ventilation to occur and those members manning hose lines to move in and extinguish any remaining fire.
 - 6. In the event that the hose lines are unable to control the fire, the sprinkler system should be turned on again until additional hose lines can be deployed into position.
- J. Initiate prompt salvage and water removal operations to protect records, machinery, storage, stock and furnishings from water damage.
- K. After fire operations are complete:
 - 1. The Incident Commander should inform the owner, occupant, or agent of the sprinkler system being out of order and they should contact their service department.