



**Division 06**

**Fire and Rescue Operations**

**Chapter 01 – Fireground Standard Operating Procedure for Structural Fires**

March 2009

**POLICY**

To establish standard operational guidelines for investigating potentially hazardous situations and structural firefighting operations. These procedures are designed to provide a framework for safe operations when dealing with structural fire incidents in common residential, commercial and mercantile type buildings within Prince George's County.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Command Officer** – Career and Volunteer Chief Officers as established in General Order 11-06, Chain-of-Command.

**Commercial Building** – buildings used for industrial, mercantile, storage or office use.

**High-Rise Building** – for the purpose of this order, any building that is over four floors in height and is equipped with a fire department standpipe system that will be used for firefighting operations.

**Incident Commander (IC)** – the individual who has established or assumed command and is in control of all groups/divisions on an incident. This may or may not be a senior officer.

**Multi-Family Dwelling** – residential building containing more than one family unit under one roof.

**Obvious Rescue** – a building occupant that is visible to the fire/rescue personnel and is in immediate danger of injury or death.

**Secondary Water Supply** – water supply that has been established from a source other than the hydrant or static water supply utilized by the first arriving engine.

**Single Family Dwelling** – residential building containing one family unit under one roof.

**Special Service** – a truck company, rescue squad, *quint operating as a truck company, or a rescue engine operating as a rescue squad.*

**Unit Officer-In-Charge (OIC)** – company officer or highest-ranking individual in charge of a specific unit (engine, truck, squad, ambulance, etc.), responding in the officer's seat of the apparatus.

**Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)** - a crew specifically designated by the Incident Commander at the scene of an emergency beyond the initial stages, consisting of a minimum of four personnel, one preferably being a company officer. The RIC shall be primarily available for the rescue of Fire/EMS Department members should the need arise. Depending on the size and complexity of the incident, the Incident Commander shall establish one or more RICs. The RIC normally replaces or enhances the standby team (2in, 2out), which was required during the initial stages of the incident.

**PROCEDURES**



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

### 1. Street Alarm

The following standard operating procedures have been established to provide a consistent and safe response *to investigate* and mitigate *a potentially hazardous situation, as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedure (Revised), or a fire involving a detached shed.*

The standard response for *these types of incidents* shall be a street alarm as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedure (Revised). The following procedures shall be used for a street alarm consisting of two engine companies, one special service, and a battalion officer. Additional units may be added in areas without hydrants or other special conditions.

*If a street alarm is upgraded to a box alarm, the units dispatched and/or on the scene, should assume their due responsibilities based on the occupancy type, as outlined in this General Order.*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine

Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally be positioned on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services space to accomplish their responsibilities.

Unit OIC shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address
- Announce number of floors
- Announce type of construction

- Announce type of occupancy
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information, and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance with General Order 06-08, Emergency Vehicle Fire/Rescue Operations and Levels of Response.
- Establish or Pass Command per General Order 6-15, Incident Command System
- If establishing, identify the "COMMAND" by name
- If establishing, announce location of Incident Command Post (ICP)
- If the Unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass Command. When Command has been passed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.
- If passing, announce "Passing Command"
- If the Unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass Command. When Command has been passed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to the fire area capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Conduct a primary search of the immediate fire area.



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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Due Engine

Ensure continuous water supply to 1<sup>st</sup> due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1<sup>st</sup> due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived on the scene, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall establish command, in accordance with General Order 06-15, and assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with General Order 06-01, 2 In 2 Out and Rapid Intervention.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should *stand-by and await further direction*.

### Special Service

Position on side Alpha to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

*Assist 1<sup>st</sup> due engine with investigating and mitigating the hazardous situation.*

### Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance

BLS ambulances responding to “make up staffing” for suppression units shall position at a location that does not hinder other responding units. Personnel shall report to, and operate with their assigned company.

BLS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall: Position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding

apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

Establish a triage and treatment area on side Alpha equipped with:

- Aid bag
- Oxygen with airway management aids
- AED
- Cot with backboard

Report to the IC.

Evaluate any civilian occupant of the structure that either escaped or is removed/rescued.

### Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance

ALS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

ALS personnel shall report to the IC, evaluate the scene, and be prepared to administer ALS care to a patient without delay.

The ALS crew should bring a minimum equipment of:

- Aid bag
- Drug box
- Monitor

### Additional Responding Units

Additional responding units, to include command officers, shall stage their apparatus uncommitted and report to the IC for assignment. In no case should a unit or command officer “self-deploy”, except to remedy an immediately demonstrable safety concern or to affect an obvious rescue. In such cases, the unit or command officer shall immediately notify the IC of their actions.



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### 2. **Box Alarm - Single-Family Dwellings**

The following standard operating procedures have been established to provide a consistent and safe response and mitigation of structural fire emergencies involving single-family dwellings.

The standard response for structural fires involving single-family dwellings shall be a **box** alarm as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedure (Revised). The following procedures shall be used for a **box alarm** consisting of **four** engine companies, two **truck companies**, a **third special service (closest rescue squad or truck)**, and a battalion officer. Additional units may be added in areas without hydrants or other special conditions.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine**

Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally be positioned on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services space to accomplish their responsibilities.

Unit OIC shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address
- Announce number of floors
- Announce type of construction
- Announce type of occupancy
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information, and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance with General Order 06-05,

Emergency Vehicle Fire/Rescue Operations and Levels of Response.

- Establish or Pass Command per General Order 06-22, Incident Management System
- If establishing, identify the "COMMAND" by name
- If establishing, announce location of Incident Command Post (ICP)
- If the Unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass Command. When Command has been passed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene. If passing, announce "Passing Command"

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to the fire area capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Conduct a primary search of the immediate fire area.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Due Engine**

Ensure continuous water supply to 1<sup>st</sup> due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1<sup>st</sup> due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived on the scene, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall establish Command, in accordance with General Order



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06-15, and assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with General Order 06-01.

Prior to advancing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Due attack hose line, the crew from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Due Engine must ensure that the initial attack hose line from the 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine has been advanced to the fire area and is capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. This includes but not limited to removing hose kinks, feeding more attack hose line, or making up staffing for the 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine crew if understaffed.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should advance an attack hose line to the floor above the fire floor with greater GPM flow than the initial attack hose line and of sufficient length to cover any location in dwelling. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced via the interior stairs and serves to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical fire extension on the floor above the fire. The line shall also be used to support the “standby/2 out” until reassigned or deployed by the IC.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Due Engine**

Establish a secondary water supply from a source not being used by the 1<sup>st</sup> due engine. This shall be accomplished by use of a straight lay, or by a reverse lay from the fire building to the source. This procedure shall be momentarily delayed if it will result in

hindered access for the responding special services.

Unit OIC shall complete a size-up of side Charlie and provide a brief radio report to the IC to include:

- Number of floors on side Charlie.
- Conditions present and location of fire, if known
- Any rescue problems
- Any other information that might need tactical consideration. For basement fires this report shall include if an attack hose line can be advanced into the fire area by the 3<sup>rd</sup> due engine via a ground level access point. (This tactic must be authorized and coordinated by the IC after ensuring that all interior crews are aware and an attack hose line is in position to prevent vertical fire extension in accordance with General Order 06-37, Basement Fire Procedures.)

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should advance an attack line to Side Charlie of the structure, stand by and await further direction from the Incident Commander.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Due Engine**

Ensure continuous water supply to 3<sup>rd</sup> due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.



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Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should stand by and await further direction.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Due Special Service

Position on side Alpha to provide special service duties including but not limited to: ladders, lights, and ventilation

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Alpha and Bravo to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

The crew and OIC shall report to the fire floor with the equipment needed for performance the following duties:

- Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the fire floor until the Division is reassigned by the IC.
- Primary Search in coordination with the first due engine.
- Forcible entry to support searches and hose line placement
- Utility control as necessary on the interior (Driver shall take care of exterior Utilities)
- Ventilation
- Checking for Extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio

The Unit OIC (Division Leader) shall report the following conditions to IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met

- Resources needed

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Due Special Service

Position *apparatus in a way to enable personnel* to provide special service duties including: ladders, lights, and ventilation to side Charlie.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Charlie and Delta to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

The crew and OIC shall report to the floor above the fire with the equipment needed for performance the following duties:

- Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the floor above the fire until the Division is reassigned by the IC.
- Primary Search in coordination with the first due engine.
- Forcible entry to support searches and hose line placement
- Utility control as necessary on the interior (Driver shall take care of exterior Utilities)
- Ventilation
- Checking for Extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.

The Unit OIC (Division Leader) shall report the following conditions to IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed



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For Attic and Top Floor Fires the Crew shall:

- Ventilate the Roof as necessary and deemed by IC.
- Bring hooks to the top floor to open up the attic area from below.

- Aid bag
- Oxygen with airway management aids
- AED
- Cot with backboard

Report to the IC.

Evaluate any civilian occupant of the structure that either escaped or is removed/rescued.

(4)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Due Special Service**

Establish RIC in accordance with General Order 06-01, which includes the following:

- Report to the IC
- Complete size-up
- Assemble tools
- Develop rescue plan
- Monitor radio channels
- Request Additional Resources as necessary

**ALS Ambulance**

ALS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

*In the unusual circumstance that the Rescue Squad or 3<sup>rd</sup> due is reassigned by the IC* for factors, such as multiple rescues in progress, the IC shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another engine or special service that is uncommitted or requested.

ALS personnel shall report to the IC, evaluate the scene, and be prepared to administer ALS care to a patient without delay.

The ALS crew should bring a minimum equipment of:

**BLS Ambulance**

BLS ambulances responding to “make up staffing” for suppression units shall position at a location that does not hinder other responding units. Personnel shall report to, and operate with their assigned company.

- Aid bag
- Drug box
- Monitor

BLS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall:

**Additional Responding Units**

Additional responding units, to include command officers shall stage their apparatus uncommitted and report to the IC for assignment. In no case should a unit or command officer “self-deploy,” except to remedy an immediately demonstrable safety concern or to affect an obvious rescue. In such cases, the unit or command officer shall immediately notify the IC of their actions.

Position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

Establish a triage and treatment area on side Alpha equipped with:

**3. Box Alarm - Multi-Family Dwellings**



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The following standard operating procedures have been established to provide a consistent and safe response and mitigation of structural fire emergencies involving multi-family dwellings.

The standard response for structural fires involving multi-family dwellings shall be a box alarm as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedure. The following procedures shall be used for a box alarm consisting of four engine companies, two truck companies, *a third special service (closest rescue squad or truck)*, and a battalion officer. Additional units may be added in areas without hydrants or other special conditions.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine

Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally be positioned on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services space to accomplish their responsibilities.

Unit OIC shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address
- Announce number of floors
- Announce type of construction
- Announce type of occupancy
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information *and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance with General Order 06-08.*

Establish or Pass Command.

- If establishing, identify the “COMMAND” by name
- If establishing, announce location of the ICP
- If passing, announce “Passing Command”

Unit OIC shall ensure that the IMS is established or passed, in accordance with General Order 06-15.

- If no command officer is on the scene, and the IMS has not been established, the Unit OIC shall establish or pass command.
- If the Unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass command. When command has been passed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to the fire area capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

The preferred advancement of the initial attack hose line in multi-family dwellings shall be via the interior stairs to protect the means of escape for building occupants.

Conduct a primary search of the immediate fire area.



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Ensure that sprinkler and/or standpipe connection(s) are covered by a responding engine company.

### **2nd Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 1st due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1st due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived on the scene, the 2nd due engine OIC shall establish Command, in accordance with General Order 06-15, and assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

The 2nd due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with General Order 06-01.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should advance an attack hose line with greater GPM flow than the initial attack hose line and of sufficient length to cover any location in dwelling. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced via the interior stairs and serves to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical fire extension on the floor above the fire or as a back up hose line to the initial attack hose line. The line shall also be used to support the “standby/2 out” until reassigned or deployed by the IC.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **3rd Due Engine**

Establish a continuous water supply to side Charlie from a source not being used by the 1st due engine if possible. This procedure shall be momentarily delayed if it will result in hindered access for the responding special services.

Unit OIC shall complete a size-up of side Charlie and provide a brief radio report to the IC to include:

- Number of floors on side Charlie
- Conditions present and location of fire, if known
- Any rescue problems
- Any other information that might need tactical consideration

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow and length to cover any location in the building. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced from side Charlie over a ground ladder and is used to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical or horizontal fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, which is normally the attic area.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 3rd due engine.



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Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, advance an attack hose line with sufficient GPM flow and of sufficient length to cover any location in the fire building or an adjoining building. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced from side Charlie over a ground ladder and serves to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical or horizontal fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, which is normally the exposure apartment unit or building.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **1st Due Special Service**

Position on side Alpha to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Alpha and Bravo to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the fire floor, and that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio. Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first.

- The fire area
- The area adjacent to the fire area
- Floor above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the fire floor in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC
- Utility control
- Check for fire extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the fire floor until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed

### **2nd Due Special Service**

Position on side Charlie to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.



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Ladder sides Charlie and Delta to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the floor above the fire, and ensure that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.

Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- Area directly above fire area
- Floor above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the floor above the fire in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and attack hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC
- Utility control
- Check for fire extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the floor above the fire until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met

- Resources needed

### 3rd Due Special Service

Establish RIC in accordance with General Order 06-01, which includes the following:

- Report to the IC
- Complete size-up
- Assemble tools
- Develop rescue plan
- Monitor radio channels

In the unusual circumstance that the 3rd due special service is reassigned by the IC for other operations due to arrival sequence or other factors, such as multiple rescues in progress, the IC shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another engine or special service that is uncommitted or requested.

### BLS Ambulance

BLS ambulances responding to “make up staffing” for suppression units shall position at a location that does not hinder other responding units. Personnel shall report to, and operate with their assigned company.

BLS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall:

Position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

Establish a triage and treatment area on side Alpha equipped with:

- Aid Bag
- Oxygen with airway management aids
- AED
- Cot with backboard



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Report to the IC.

Evaluate any civilian occupant of the structure that either escaped or is removed/rescued.

### ALS Ambulance

ALS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

ALS personnel shall report to the IC, evaluate the scene and be prepared to administer ALS care to a patient without delay.

### ADDITIONAL RESPONDING UNITS

Additional responding units, to include command officers, must report to the IC for assignment. In no case should a unit or command officer "self-deploy," except to remedy an immediately demonstrable safety concern or to affect an obvious rescue. In such cases, the unit or command officer shall immediately notify the IC of their actions.

#### 4. Box Alarm - Commercial Buildings

The following standard operating procedures have been established to provide a consistent and safe response and mitigation of structural fire emergencies involving commercial buildings.

The standard response for structural fires involving commercial buildings shall be a box alarm as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedures. The following procedures shall be used for a box alarm consisting of four engine companies, two truck companies, a third special service (closest rescue squad or

truck) and a battalion officer. Additional units may be added in areas without hydrants or other special conditions.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine

Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally take a position on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services space to accomplish their responsibilities.

Unit OIC shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address
- Announce number of floors
- Announce type of construction
- Announce type of occupancy
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance with General Order 06-08
- Establish or Pass Command
- If establishing, identify the "COMMAND" by name
- If establishing, announce the location of ICP
- If passing, announce "Passing Command"

Unit OIC shall ensure that the IMS is established or passed, in accordance with General Order 06-15.

If no command officer is on the scene, and the IMS has not been established, the Unit OIC shall establish or pass command.



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If the unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass command. When command has been passed, the 2nd due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

Make obvious rescues and ensure occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow (normally 200 GPM or greater) and length to the fire area capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Conduct a primary search of the immediate fire area.

Ensure that sprinkler and/or standpipe connection(s) are covered by a responding engine company.

### **2nd Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 1st due engine and/or that the sprinkler/standpipe connection(s) have been covered.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1st due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived on the scene, the 2nd due engine OIC shall establish Command, in accordance with General Order 06-15, and assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

The 2nd due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with General Order 06-01.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, the crew should advance an attack hose line with greater GPM flow (normally 200 GPM or greater) than the initial attack hose line and of sufficient length to cover any location in the building. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced via the same access point as the initial attack hose line and serves to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical or horizontal fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, or as a back up line to the initial attack hose line. The line shall also be used to support the “standby/2 out” until reassigned or deployed by the IC.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **3rd Due Engine**

Establish a continuous water supply to side Charlie from a source not being used by the 1st due engine if possible. This procedure shall be momentarily delayed if it will result in hindered access for the responding special services.

Unit OIC shall complete a size-up of side Charlie and provide a brief radio report to the IC to include:

- Number of floors on side Charlie
- Conditions present and location of fire, if known
- Any rescue problems
- Any other information that might need tactical consideration



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Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, advance an attack hose line of sufficient GPM flow (normally 200 GPM or greater) and length to cover any location in the building. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced from side Charlie and is used to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical or horizontal fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, which is normally in an adjoining exposure.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

Ensure that sprinkler and/or standpipe connection(s) are covered.

### **4th Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 3rd due engine.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, advance an attack hose line with sufficient GPM flow (normally 200 GPM or greater) and of sufficient length to cover any location in the fire building or an adjoining building. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

This attack hose line is normally advanced from side Charlie and serves to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical or horizontal fire extension in the most probable

or threatened area, which is normally the exposure opposite the one being covered by the 3rd due engine.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Due Special Service**

Position on side Alpha to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Alpha and Bravo to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants, for the safety of operating personnel, and for access to the roof.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the fire floor, and that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.

Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- The fire area
- The area adjacent to the fire
- Floor above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.



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Perform the following truck company operations in the fire area in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry into the fire building and exposure buildings to support searches and hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC
- Utility control
- Check for fire extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the interior or fire floor until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed

### **2nd Due Special Service**

Position on side Charlie to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Charlie and Delta to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants, for the safety of operating personnel, and for access to the roof.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the floor above or in an adjacent area or exposures, and ensure that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.  
Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- Area adjacent to or above the fire area
- Other floors above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the floor above, in adjacent areas, or exposure buildings in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry into the rear fire building and exposure buildings to support searches and attack hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC
- Utility control
- Check for fire extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the floor above the fire until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed

### **3rd Due Special Service**

Establish RIC in accordance with General Order 06-01, which includes the following:

- Report to the IC



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- Complete size-up
- Assemble tools
- Develop rescue plan
- Monitor radio channels

In the unusual circumstance that the 3rd due special service is reassigned by the IC for other operations due to arrival sequence or other factors, such as multiple rescues in progress, the IC shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another engine or special service that is uncommitted or requested.

### **BLS Ambulance**

BLS ambulances responding to “make up staffing” for suppression units shall position at a location that does not hinder other responding units. Personnel shall report to, and operate with their assigned company.

BLS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall:

Position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

Establish a triage and treatment area on side Alpha equipped with:

- Aid bag
- Oxygen with airway management aids
- AED
- Cot with backboard

Report to the IC.

Evaluate any civilian occupant of the structure that either escaped or is removed/rescued.

### **ALS Ambulance**

ALS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

ALS personnel shall report to the IC, evaluate the scene, and be prepared to administer ALS care to a patient without delay.

### **ADDITIONAL RESPONDING UNITS**

Additional responding units, to include command officers must report to the IC for assignment. In no case should a unit or command officer “self-deploy,” except to remedy an immediately demonstrable safety concern or to affect an obvious rescue. In such cases, the unit or command officer shall immediately notify the IC of their actions.

### **5. Box Alarm - High-Rise Buildings**

The following standard operating procedures have been established to provide a consistent and safe response and mitigation of structural fire emergencies involving residential high-rise buildings. These procedures can be adjusted for commercial high-rise buildings.

The standard response for structural fires involving high-rise buildings shall be a box alarm as specified in General Order 03-22, Standard Response/Dispatch Procedure. The following procedure shall be used for a box alarm consisting of four engine companies, two truck companies, a third special service (closest rescue squad or truck) and a battalion officer. Additional units may be added for other special conditions.

### **1st Due Engine**



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Take steps to establish continuous water supply. This will normally be accomplished by use of a forward or straight lay from the closest appropriate hydrant or water supply point.

Apparatus shall normally be positioned on side Alpha, but in a way that does not hinder the responding special services space to accomplish their responsibilities.

Unit OIC shall complete an initial size-up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Announce correct address.
- Announce number of floors.
- Announce type of construction.
- Announce type of occupancy.
- Announce conditions found, other pertinent information and indicate the necessary level of response, in accordance with General Order 06-08.
- Establish or Pass Command.
- If establishing, identify the "COMMAND" by name.
- If establishing, announce location of ICP.
- If passing, announce "Passing Command."

Unit OIC shall ensure that the IMS is established or passed, in accordance with General Order 06-15.

If no command officer is on the scene, and the IMS has not been established, the Unit OIC shall establish or pass command. If the unit OIC must remain with the crew to ensure the safe and effective operation of that crew, he/she shall pass command. When command has been passed, the 2nd due engine OIC shall assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Check building enunciator panel for location of fire.

Advance an attack hose line (standpipe pack) of sufficient GPM flow and at least 200 feet in length to the fire area capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Conduct a primary search of the immediate fire area.

Unit OIC shall complete an interior size up and provide a brief radio return to include:

- Interior conditions present and location of the fire, if known.
- Designations for stairwells (attack, evacuation, ventilation, etc.).

Ensure that sprinkler and/or standpipe connection(s) are covered by a responding engine company.

### **2nd Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 1st due engine and/or that the sprinkler/standpipe connection(s) have been covered.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

If the 1st due engine OIC passes command, and no command officer has arrived on the scene, the 2nd due engine OIC shall establish Command, in accordance with General Order 06-15, and assume the role of IC until relieved by a command officer who has arrived on the scene.



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The 2nd due engine OIC shall ensure the “standby/2 out” is established, in accordance with General Order 06-01.

The crew should report to the fire floor with a standpipe pack made up of an attack hose line with greater GPM flow than the initial attack hose line and of at least 200 feet in length. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, report to the fire floor and assist the 1st due engine crew as needed to ensure that the initial attack hose line has been advanced from the standpipe riser to the fire area and is capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the fire.

After the initial attack hose line is in position, advance an attack hose line (standpipe pack) from the same stairwell (different outlet) as the initial attack hose line to confine, control, and/or extinguish horizontal fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, which is normally the hallway or an adjoining work or living area on the fire floor.

This attack hose line shall also be used as a back up hose line to the initial attack hose line and/or to support the “standby/2 out,” until reassigned or deployed by the IC.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **3rd Due Engine**

Establish a continuous water supply to the side that is opposite the sprinkler/standpipe connection(s) from a source not being used by the 1st due engine if possible. This procedure shall be momentarily delayed if it will result in hindered access for the responding special services.

Unit OIC shall complete a size-up of side Charlie and provide a brief radio report to the IC to include:

- Number of floors on side Charlie
- Conditions present and location of fire, if known
- Any rescue problems
- Any other information that might need tactical consideration

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, report to the floor above the fire with an attack hose line (standpipe pack) of sufficient GPM flow and of at least 200 feet in length. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

Advance the attack hose line (standpipe pack) from the same stairwell and riser outlet as the initial attack line to confine, control, and/or extinguish vertical fire extension in the most probable or threatened area, which is normally the floor above the fire floor.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **4th Due Engine**

Ensure adequate water supply to 3rd due engine and/or that the sprinkler/standpipe connection(s) have been covered.

Ensure that obvious rescues are being made and the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Unless directed otherwise by the IC, report to the floor above the fire and assist the 3rd due engine crew as needed to ensure that the initial attack hose line on the floor above the



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fire has been advanced from the standpipe riser to the fire area and is capable of confining, controlling, and/or extinguishing the vertical fire extension.

Report to the floor above the fire with an attack hose line (standpipe pack) with greater GPM flow than the initial attack hose line and of at least 200 feet in length. Include the tools and equipment needed to complete this assignment.

After the initial attack hose line is in position, advance an attack hose line (standpipe pack) from the same stairwell (different outlet) as the initial attack hose line, to confine, control, and/or extinguish horizontal fire extension in the next most probable or threatened area, which is normally the hallway or an adjoining work or living area on the floor above the fire.

Conduct a primary search of any interior area that the crew is assigned to.

### **1st Due Special Service**

Position on side Alpha to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.

Ladder sides Alpha and Bravo to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the fire floor, and that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.

Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- The fire area
- The area adjacent to the fire area
- Floor above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the fire floor in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and attack hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC (includes shutting down HVAC for entire building)
- Utility Control
- Check for fire extension.
- Salvage and overhaul.

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the fire floor until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed

### **2nd Due Special Service**

Position on side Charlie to provide ladders, lights, and ventilation.

Make obvious rescues and ensure the occupants are evaluated and given appropriate emergency medical care.



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Ladder sides Charlie and Delta, to provide for the rescue/removal of occupants and for the safety of operating personnel.

Gain control of building elevators and search elevator cars for victims.

Ensure that a primary search is conducted of the entire structure upon arrival starting on the floor above the fire floor, and ensure that a secondary search is conducted when the fire is controlled and ventilation has been started.

Crews shall operate in teams of two (2) or more with a portable radio.

Searches shall begin in areas of most danger first:

- Area directly above the fire
- Floor above the fire
- Other areas

Primary and secondary searches shall be coordinated with the engine company to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that the same crew is not responsible for completing both searches in the same area.

Perform the following truck company operations on the floor above the fire floor in support of the engine companies:

- Forcible entry to support searches and attack hose line placement
- Ventilation in coordination with the IC
- Utility Control
- Check for fire extension
- Salvage and overhaul

Unit OIC shall assume Division command of the floor above the fire floor until the Division is reassigned by the IC.

Report conditions to the IC:

- Progress made
- Obstacles met
- Resources needed

### **3rd Due Special Service**

Establish RIC in accordance with General Order 06-01, which includes the following:

- Report to the IC
- Complete size-up
- Assemble tools
- Develop rescue plan
- Monitor radio channels

For hi-rise operations, the RIC shall be staged on the floor below the fire.

In the unusual circumstance that the 3rd due special service is reassigned by the IC for other operations due to arrival sequence or other factors, such as multiple rescues in progress, the IC shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another engine or special service that is uncommitted or requested.

### **BLS Ambulance**

BLS ambulances responding to “make up staffing” for suppression units shall position at a location that does not hinder other responding units. Personnel shall report to, and operate with their assigned company.

BLS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall:

Position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding



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apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

Establish a triage and treatment area in the lobby or on the floor below the fire equipped with:

- Aid bag
- Oxygen with airway management aids
- AED
- Cot with backboard

Report to the IC.

Evaluate any civilian occupant of the structure that either escaped or is removed/rescued.

### ALS Ambulance

ALS ambulances dispatched on the call or dispatched on the working fire dispatch shall position at a location in close proximity to the scene that does not hinder other responding apparatus and allows a path of exit for emergency transport.

ALS personnel shall report to the IC, evaluate the scene, and be prepared to administer ALS care to a patient without delay.

### ADDITIONAL RESPONDING UNITS

Additional responding units, to include command officers must report to the IC for assignment. In no case should a unit or command officer “self-deploy,” except to remedy an immediately demonstrable safety concern or to affect an obvious rescue. In such cases, the unit or command officer shall immediately notify the IC of their actions.

The following procedures shall be used to provide a consistent and safe response and

mitigation of structural fire emergencies involving various situations.

## 6. Staging

### Level I Staging

Level I staging shall be used when sufficient personnel are inside the structure and an initial size up is being conducted.

Units that are directed to Level I stage shall partially carry out the operational procedures established in this General Order. This includes reporting to side Alpha or Charlie, establishing a water supply, positioning aerial apparatus to use the aerial ladder, etc.

Personnel that are directed to Level I stage are not to enter the structure, advance attack hose lines, ladder the building, etc. They are to remain with the unit, standing by, and be fully prepared to complete the remainder of their operational responsibilities when directed to do so by the IC.

### Level II Staging

Level II staging shall involve establishing a specific area designated by the IC to gather additional resources away from the scene but in close proximity (with less than a 3 minute response time) for situations such as a hazardous materials incident, a mass casualty incident, or significant fire involvement in a large or high occupancy structure, etc.

Level II staging shall also be used when the initial units responding directly to the scene need to remain uncommitted until a size up and operational plan can be formulated by the IC.

Units that are directed to Level II stage at a specific location away from the scene but in



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close proximity shall report directly there and remain uncommitted.

Personnel shall remain intact in crews and shall not become engaged in operational activity unless directed to do so by the IC.

The first arriving engine OIC shall assume Division command for staging until the Division is reassigned by the IC or a command officer arrives in the staging area.

PSC shall ensure that responding units are aware of the exact location of the staging area and the command/unit officer that is coordinating it.

Units that are directed to Level II stage on the scene, or in line of approach to the scene, shall remain uncommitted at a location that will allow them to complete any operational procedure.

### **Base Staging**

Base staging shall involve establishing a specific area designated by the IC to gather additional resources at a location that is away from the scene (within a 3 to 5 minute response time) for situations that will require extended operations, significant rotation of crews, etc. The same procedures established for Level II staging shall be followed for base staging.

### **7. Other Responding Units and Command Officers**

Additional units and command officers responding on Task Force alarms, or multiple alarms shall take no action, which has not been specifically assigned to them by the IC.

Engine companies responding extra, or on additional alarms, shall not lay additional

supply lines unless directed to do so by the IC.

Additional units and command officers are to report to the location of the announced staging area. If no staging area has been established, the unit officer and command officer shall report in person to the IC. The unit shall be uncommitted and personnel shall remain intact as a crew.

### **8. Standpipe and Sprinkler Systems**

Standpipes shall be charged immediately to the required pressure for the reported fire location.

Sprinkler systems shall be charged immediately if they are part of the standpipe system. Otherwise, they shall be charged and maintained at 125 PSI if:

- Smoke or flame is visible
- The water motor gong is ringing
- The OIC directs it to be done

The engine operator shall advise the IC when the system(s) has been charged.

### **9. Building Side/Quadrant/Exposure Designation System**

This system has been established to uniformly identify particular building segments and exposures, which will allow companies to carry out these operating procedures in a coordinated manner.

#### **Building Sides (Refer to Figure 1)**

- **Side Alpha** - This is normally the front or main entrance/access to the building and usually the side bearing the building address. For buildings with an unusual configuration, side Alpha will be identified by the first



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arriving unit, utilizing a suitable landmark (Refer to Figure 2) such as the parking lot, swimming pool, boiler room, etc.

- **Side Bravo** - This is the left side of building when facing side Alpha.
- **Side Charlie** - This is the side opposite side Alpha.
- **Side Delta** – This is the right side of the building when facing side Alpha.

### Building wings (Refer to Figure 2)

Where configuration is such that sides cannot be easily identified, the building will be broken down into wings (see attachment drawings). Side Alpha will be identified utilizing landmark. The remaining sides shall be identified by clockwise rotation similar to the above.

### Quadrants (Refer to Figure 1)

The building interior shall be divided into quadrants A, B, C & D starting at the left front of side Alpha and moving in a clockwise rotation.

The wings are to be broken down into quadrants when this will enhance safety and/or operations.

Floor numbers will identify building level.

### Exposures

Corresponds to sides of building, i.e. building on side Bravo is exposure Bravo, etc.

## 10. Responsibilities

The first arriving unit OIC shall be responsible for reporting on the scene, initiating the IMS as outlined in General Order 3-2, and indicating the necessary level

of response, in accordance with Fire/EMS Directive 02-03.

Each Company/Unit Officer shall be responsible for:

- Supervision and control of personnel under his/her command
- The safety and welfare of personnel under his/her command
- Instituting the appropriate level of accountability in accordance with General Order 06-21, Personnel Accountability Procedures
- Reporting conditions found and progress being made to the IC or appropriate Division/Group supervisor
- Maintaining communications with the IC or appropriate Division/Group supervisor and providing personnel accountability at 20-minute intervals

Each Division/Group/Branch Officer shall be responsible for:

- The safety and welfare of personnel under his/her command.
- Supervision and control of personnel under his/her command.
- Maintaining the appropriate level of accountability in accordance with General Order 06-21.
- Reporting conditions found and progress being made to the Incident Commander.
- Maintaining communications with the IC, and providing personnel accountability at 20-minute intervals.

The IC shall be responsible for:

- The safety and welfare of all personnel.
- Ensuring all orders and procedures are followed.



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- Providing an update on the current conditions within ten minutes that includes:
  - Confirmation of correct address
  - Approximate size and type of occupancy
  - Severity of conditions
  - Units to be held
- Providing a progress report every 20 Minutes that includes the severity of the conditions, current strategy, and progress.

### **REFERENCES**

N/A

### **FORMS/ATTACHMENTS**

Figure 1 – Building Sides

Figure 2- Building Wings

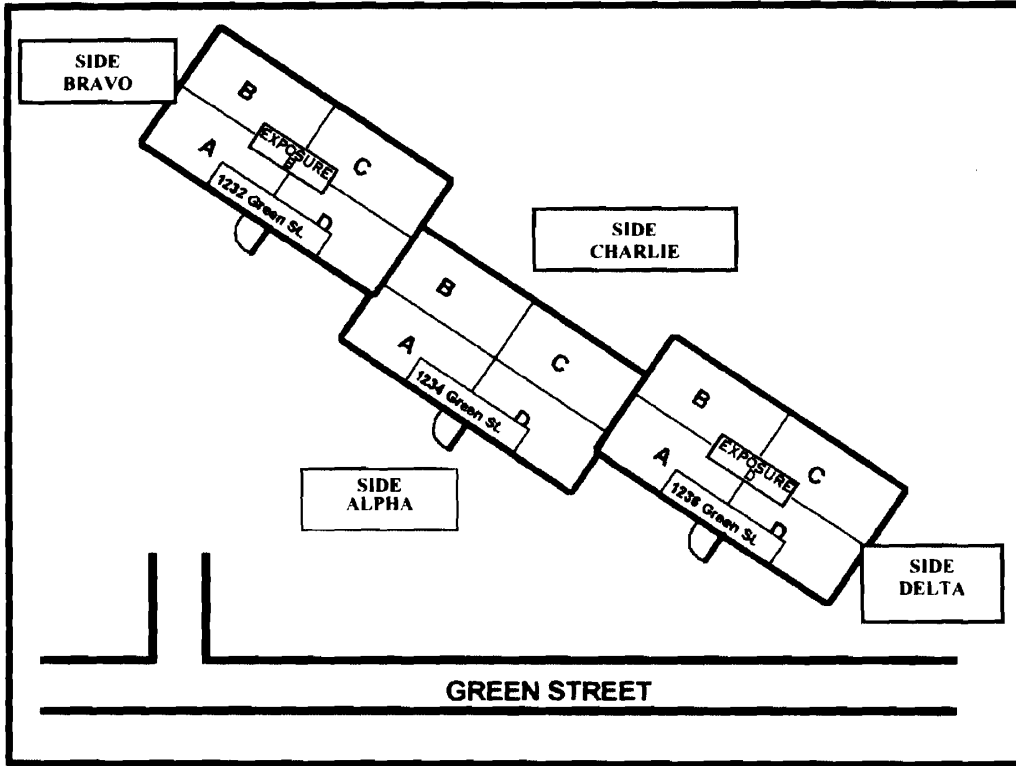


Figure 1: Side Alpha of the building shall be the side bearing the street address, or what is “normally considered the front” of the building. Sides Bravo, Charlie and Delta shall be determined by a clockwise rotation from Side Alpha. Exposures shall be designated by name, in the same manner as the sides. The building interior shall be divided into quadrants, (A, B, C & D), starting at the left front of side 1 and moving in clockwise rotation. The levels shall be designated by floor number, and will be assigned Divisions.

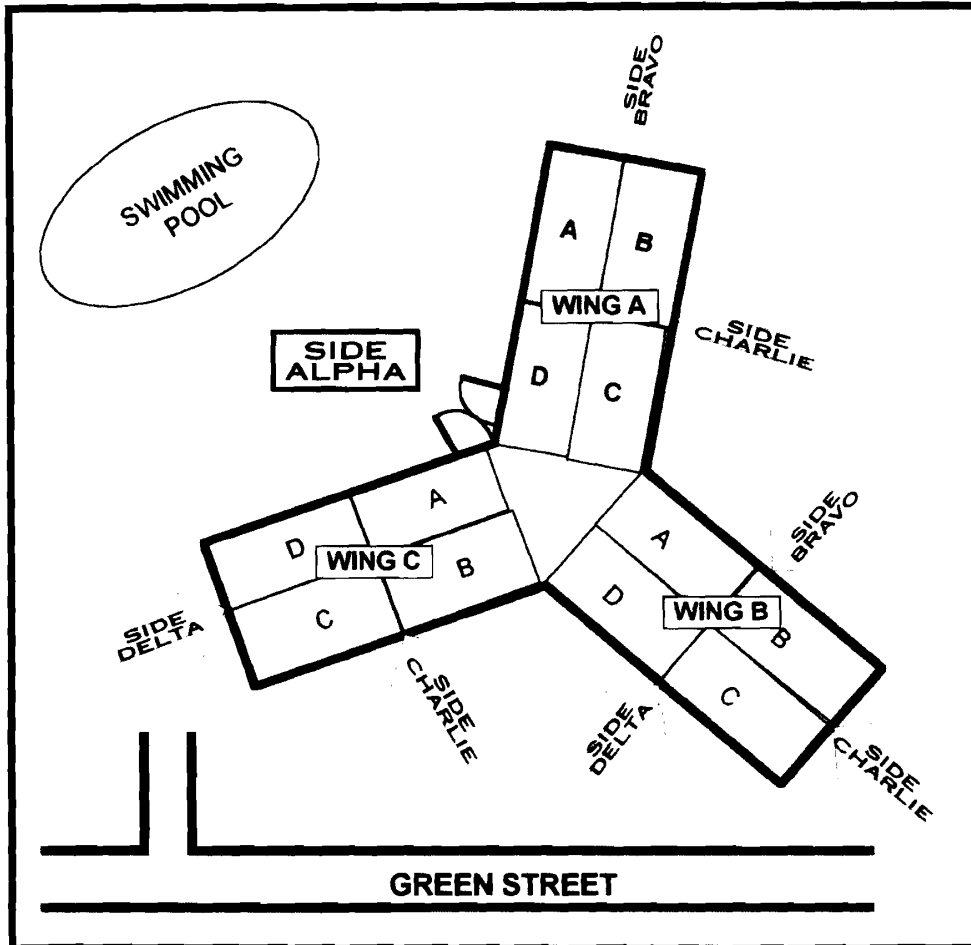


Figure 2: For buildings with an unusual configuration, side Alpha will be identified by the first arriving unit, utilizing a suitable landmark such as a swimming pool. Where configuration is such that sides cannot be easily identified, the building will be broken down into wings. Identify side Alpha utilizing appropriate land mark and designate wings by clockwise rotation starting with wing A. The building interior shall be divided into quadrants, (A, B, C & D), starting at the left front of side Alpha and moving in clockwise rotation. The levels shall be designated by floor number, and will be assigned Divisions.