

Grissettown Longwood Fire & Rescue

First Arrival Assignments

First due activities are crucial to a successful outcome. If initial size-up is lacking in either examining exposures or observing present smoke or fire status, additional responding units may hamper in providing the necessary services.

First due activities can mean the difference between controlling the situation or reacting to it. As such, the officer-in-charge must have a clear understanding of both the location type and construction type to assure of safe and effective protocols under the alarm condition observed on the initial size-up.

4.1 SCENE SIZE-UP

- a. Upon approach and arrival an initial exterior exam of no less than three exposures will occur. Signs of smoke, flame, vapors, or other disturbances will be immediately reported to DISPATCH.
- b. If nothing is showing and an investigation is to occur, at least one crew member in full turnout gear with handlight and an axe is to accompany the officer (also in full turnout gear).
- c. Should the involved structure be attached to other buildings, these attached buildings will be considered potential exposure fire hazards until interior examination reveals otherwise.
- d. Command will be established by road name and confirmed with DISPATCH.
- e. A staging area will be established and report to DISPATCH for relay to additional responding apparatus and EMS units.
- f. The initial size-up will attempt to determine potential fire spread and fuel sources prior to committing personnel. This will prevent the selection of inadequate hose and nozzle sizes to deal with any escalation.
- g. It is imperative to evaluate and determine potential or real victims that have not exited the structure, and request additional support as needed to handle this aspect.

- h. Ancillary items, such as charged electrical lines, propane tanks, and weather conditions must also be evaluated during initial size-up. This should also be included in the secondary report to DISPATCH.

4.2 EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- a. Efforts must be made to perform a complete exterior examination of all vertical sides as well as clear visual examination of signs of compromise of the roof and flooring.
- b. Indications of trapped victims or concealed involvement must be immediately reported to an officer and plans made for further interior examination.
- c. Under no circumstances are fire fighters to enter a potentially involved or adjacent structure without appropriate protective clothing, SCBA on and breathing, with at least one crew member carrying an entry tool.
- d. All members located on the fireground must be wearing full turnout gear.
- e. Exposure buildings or structures must be laddered or planned for should flyover embers cause roof fires.
- f. Radiant and convection heat may cause exposed curtains, blinds, or other low ignition fuel sources to erupt. As such, this consideration is crucial in preventing exposure fire losses.

4.3 INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- a. Whether approach and size-up indicate fire activity or not does not exempt the demand for internal examination.
- b. Should evidence of trapped, or potentially trapped victims, be found, immediate rescue attempts should be made, provided fire fighter safety is not compromised.