

Grissettown Longwood Fire & Rescue

High Rise Building Guidelines

A building will be classified as a high rise when the height of the unit exceeds the reach of portable ladders carried on all first run Engines. For all practical purposes, any building over two stories will be classified as a high rise.

21.1 HIGH RISE EVACUATION

Due to the fact that every fire has its own circumstances (such as wind direction, explosions, vertical or horizontal extension, etc.), it is concluded that evacuation of a high rise is a consideration which cannot be assigned precise, inflexible guidelines. Each emergency must be assessed individually when a determination to evacuate a specific area or even the entire structure will be made by, and the responsibility of, the Incident Commander based on all information available to him.

21.2 HIGH RISE VENTILATION

Ventilation in high rise buildings at best is very difficult, and at worst virtually impossible to quickly achieve the desired results. In most cases, acceptable levels of ventilation in high rise buildings can be achieved by cross-ventilation with mechanical aid, but this is by no means a solid rule. High rise buildings with interior corridors may be involved with heat and smoke to such an extent as to require vertical ventilation. Special features affecting ventilation will be noted in the pre-fire plan. Each fire is different and conditions can vary to great extremes but, ultimately the Incident Commander will have the responsibility to oversee the problem and choose the best ventilation option available based on all the information at his disposal.

21.3 ENGINE RESPONSES

The Engine Company responses will be in accordance with response guidelines. The Shift Captain will set up a Command Post in front of the building, if possible. All Companies will enter the building with the equipment listed below and in full protective clothing with SCBA. All Companies shall remain as a group as much as possible. If the Command Post is established upon entering the building, all Companies will check with Command for assignment.

The following is the Standard Operating Guidelines that will be the basic guide for fighting high rise fires. It will be followed as close as possible where conditions permit:

- a) Equipment for High Rise Fires
- b) First Arriving Engine:
- c) OfficerHandlight, Elevator Keys
- d) DriverForcible Entry Tools
- e) FirefighterHigh Rise Pack (NOZZLE)
- f) Ladder Building as per Incident Commander
- g) Second Arriving: The Engine Company will report to the staging and await assignment