TRUCK COMPANY STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE

1) Pre-Service (To be observed during Emergency/Non-Emergency & Training)

Truck Company personnel will observe the same basic SOP guidelines established for all departmental personnel, with respect to the proper use and maintenance of protective equipment, i.e.: SCBA/COAT/HELMET/BOOTS/GLOVES/BUNKER GEAR.

2) Truck Company Objective

A. To begin Outside Search and Rescue Operations (OSR)
B. Ladder the scene
C. Prepare to receive Ventilation orders

Truck company operators/personnel must insure the proper placement of the unit to insure it's Maximum Performance. Apparatus placement will be based on many factors to accomplish the overall objective, Height of the Structure, Exposures, Fire Conditions, Obstructions and if the placement of the unit will block or hinder other incoming units.

The officer should attempt to place the turntable at the corner of a building and when possible back in to get the maximum effectiveness of the Aerial if needed. This will allow for maximum performance on at least 2 sides of the Structure, the Roof and Exposures.

3) Locating the Fire

An Exterior Survey of the structure, and area must be made upon arrival. The following information must be determined or considered.

A. Location of Occupants
B. Location of Fire, Smoke and Heat
C. The Building Construction, Area, Height and Type: Wood Frame, Balloon, Garden Apartment, Ordinary, Non-Combustible, Fire Resistive or Truss.
D. Building entrances and exits such as Fire Stairs, Escapes and Open Stairwells or Chutes.
E. Exposures
F. Any possible building information i.e.: Floor Plans/ Layout/Maps
G. Information from Building Occupants who have gotten out.
H. Obstructions to ladder placement by Fire or Building Layout.

Fire Suppression must work hand in hand with Ventilation. It is imperative that the location of the Fire is known prior to Venting. Premature or poor ventilation may be more "DANGEROUS" than no ventilation.

4) Fire Scene Operations

A. Arrival protocol is to protect Life and Property by Ventilation, Laddering and/or Master Stream Operations.
B. When arriving at a scene the Truck Company should be aware of situations requiring Outside Rescue. Occupants at windows, who may have "NO" other exit due to Fire Conditions. In this situation the Truck company's main responsibilities are to ladder the building and prepare for exterior ladder rescue.

5)Rescue

Truck companies are often confronted with life saving operations upon arrival. Undoubtedly, it is the most serious factor at any fire. Life saving operations are always placed ahead of other Truck Company duties when personnel are not available to do both. When occupant's main egress is cut off by fire, ladder rescue may be their only option. Judgment must be used to consider all alternatives. Life safety may be accomplished by ventilation or confining the fire by the use of Fire Doors. Thus reducing the fire hazard and buying time to allow for a safer evacuation. Life Hazards, when visible upon arrival must be dealt with. Immediate rescue should be initiated by the Truck Company when it appears the occupants only means of escape may be by Truck Company ladder rescue.

6) Ventilation

Is one of the major responsibilities of the Truck company. It can be accomplished by either interior or exterior operations. In some cases, it can be done during the Search of the Building.

Ventilation is the Controlled removal of Heat, Smoke and Toxic Gases from a Fire Area.

1) Mushrooming: Is when heated smoke and products from fire rise up through building openings to the attic or top floor. Once heated gases reach the top of the building, they spread horizontally, reach the walls and bank downward floor by floor. This condition will endanger building occupants and firefighters.

Ventilation is done for 2 major reasons

1) Life Safety

To reduce the number of people exposed to the dangers of Smoke, Heat and Toxic Gases by:

A. Reducing the occurrence of the mushroom effect;
B. increases survival time by allowing oxygen to enter and smoke and toxins to exit;
C. Reduces panic by lifting smoke increasing visibility;
D. Allows for a better environment for personnel in the area such as Search and R6scue Teams.

Venting for Life Safety is "Not without Risk". The oxygen that is allowed into the structure or area may also intensify the Fire and promote its spread.

2) Fire Suppression

To reduce the heat and smoke in a structure:

A. Allow for easier advancement of hose lines;
B. Allow the heat **of** the fire to be located quicker, resulting in a speedier knock down;
C. Stop horizontal and vertical spread of fire;
D. Reduce fire, smoke and water damage;
E. Reduce the chance of flashover of backdraft

7) Elevated Water Ways and Streams

Aerial Apparatus have the ability to provide water supplies to upper floor in structures and master stream applications.

1) Elevated Master Streams (ADVANTAGES)

A) Quick knockdown **of** heavy fire conditions;

B) Safer conditions for personnel, use should be primarily considered in an Offensive Attack Mode only.

C. Stream mobility Up/Over and Across (NOTE) Aerial can "NOT" be retracted when Waterway is in operation;
D. Visibility from Elevated Position
E. Reach **or** Penetration into areas;

2) Elevated Master Streams (DISADVANTAGES)

A. Weight and Force of Water may compromise the strength and integrity of the structure. Each 500 Gallons of water per minute will place 2 tons of weight into a structure.

B. Personnel working near the structure should watch for flying building pieces, high pressure, large volume hose streams and the possibility of building failure or collapses; (COLLAPSE ZONE is l-1/2 times the height of the structure);

C. Unable to reach the seat of the fire due to interior walls, partitions, ceilings and other concealed obstructions;

Entry into a building during Master Stream Application is not recommended. Note that in addition to visible water buildup, the structure and its contents will absorb water. Electric power tools should not be used, but water drainage should be accomplished.

Water should be drained/removed to prevent buildup MECHANICALLY.

8) Lighting

The Truck Company should light-up the scene/area both inside and out as soon as possible to provide a better work area.

9) Salvage

The Truck Company will tarp and salvage all potentially effected property as soon as possible. Floors below the fire floor should be a priority.

10) Overhaul

Overhaul operations are essentially a careful and systematic examination of the fire scene. Once the main body of fire has been extinguished, the fire may still contain sparks, embers and concealed fire. The objective of overhaul is to make certain that no traces of fire remain to rekindle later and to leave the structure in a safe condition. Extension must be checked for, before the scene can be secured.

(Notes) Truck company personnel should perform a continual size-up of the scene so as not to become so involved with the performance of specific task, that they loose sight of the overall operation.

1) Watch for cocklofts, multiple ceilings and crawl spaces

2) Note roof hatches, scuttles and smoke doors when "opening up"

3) Skylights, vents and shafts are easier to open than roofs and walls

4) When the threat of a "BACKDRAFT", open at the highest point of the building 5) One (1) large roof opening, hole is better than 2 small openings. Think four by

four (4X4)

6) When opening up, keep the wind at your back

7) Placement of a hose line into a ventilation opening is not recommended and is discouraged is not an acceptable practice.