Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	IV Firefighting
Subject	4 Operations in Sprinklered Buildings
Code	3-IV-4
Revised	10/28/2003

4.01 Purpose

To establish a standard procedure for operations in building equipped with sprinklers or standpipe system.

4.02 Policy

In the event that a structure equipped with a sprinkler or standpipe system is reported to be on fire the following operations have been established.

4.03 Safety

a. Utilize full protective clothing and SCBA
b. Maintain tight control over personnel during interior operations
c. Maintain a RIT team and observe 2 in 2 out policy
d. Utilize hose lines and/or life lines during interior search operations.

Procedure

1. The first arriving engine shall be the attack pumper. Upon arrival:

a. Give a situation report
b. Establish Command and continue size-up
c. Determine the exact location of the fire
    1. Check for occupants
    2. Check alarm panel (if available) for general location of fire.
    3. Deploy hand lines as needed.

2. Normally, 1 ¾" hand lines may be used for fire streams in sprinklered building. However, when fires involve unusual hazards, high piled stock or large areas, 2 ½" hand lines should be considered.

3. The second arriving engine shall stage at the closest available hydrant in preparation for supplying the fire department connection (FDC) and await orders to lay a line from the hydrant to the FDC.

a. The second arriving engine shall automatically connect to the hydrant and lay a supply line to the location of the FDC if reports from the interior crew indicate that smoke or fire is visible.
b. The pump operator shall connect the engine to the FDC with a minimum of two (2) 2 ½" hose lines or one (1) 4" line if the FDC is a large diameter hose (LDH) connection. If the apparatus is positioned close enough, consideration should be given to connecting with the 3" apartment lay instead of 2 ½" for reduced friction loss.
c. If the hose lay from the hydrant to the FDC is more than 300', notify Command so that another engine can be detailed to hook-up to the hydrant and boost the pressure to your engine.
d. If a fire is in progress and sprinkler heads have activated, a pressure of 150 psi. should be supplied to the FDC.
e. Residential structures (single family, multiple-family) should have a pressure of 100 psi supplies to the FDC.

4. Insure that evacuation, search and other life safety measures are promptly completed.

5. 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:

a. A firefighter with radio should be sent to the shut-off valve.
b. Hose lines must be ready, charged and in position for confinement and control before the sprinklers are shut down

6. Initiate prompt property conservation operations to protect records, machinery, storage, stock and furnishings from water damage.

7. After fire operations are complete.

a. Contact the owner, occupant, or agent about the sprinkler system being out of order and that they should contact the service representative to put the system back in operation.
b. Explain to the owner, occupant, or agent that the property will not be protected or if connected to a central signaling station an alarm will not be transmitted.