

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-III-4
Offensive Operations	
Chpt: III Structure Fires	Revised: 3/2/17 Pages: 3

I. POLICY:

A. To attempt to stabilize fire conditions by extending, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, an aggressive well-placed and adequate offensive interior fire attack effort and to support that aggressive attack with whatever resources and action is required to provide for safety, reduce fire extension and to bring the fire under control.

II. BASIC OFFENSIVE STRATEGY:

A. Interior attack and related support directed toward quickly bringing the fire under control.

1. Take command
2. First line - fast, aggressive interior attack with minimum 1 ¾" line.
3. Provide support activities including RIC, Passport, ventilation, securing utilities, etc.
4. Conduct primary search
5. Second line - backup first/cover rear, minimum 1 ¾" line.
6. Pump water/maintain water supply
7. Quickly evaluate success and react

III. CONSIDERATIONS:

A. Command must define offensive mode based upon:

1. Fire extent
2. Structural conditions
3. Entry capability
4. Ventilation profile
5. Rescue ability of occupants
6. Resources
7. Location/position of attack

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8. Size of attack
9. Support functions

B. Two helpful acronyms for tactical priorities are RECEO and LOUVERS. RECEO should be performed in order with salvage and ventilation integral parts that must be assessed and or performed during the course of operation. LOUVERS generally describes support company functions and may not be performed in sequential order or at all, depending upon conditions found.

1. R- Rescue
2. E- Exposures
3. C- Confine
4. E- Extinguish
5. O-Overhaul
6. Salvage and Ventilation if and when needed
7. L- Laddering and Lighting
8. O-Opening up (Forcible Entry), Overhaul
9. U-Utilities
10. V-Ventilation
11. E-Extension, Extrication
12. R- Rescue
13. S- Salvage, Search

C. Many times offensive conditions are clear-cut and Command can quickly develop a decision that relates to that mode. In other cases, the situation is marginal and Command must initiate an offensive interior attack, while setting up defensive positions on the exterior.

D. The effect of the interior attack must be evaluated and the attack abandoned if necessary.

E. Mode changes can develop almost instantly or can take virtually all night; Command must be aware of and responsive to such mode changes.

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F. Command must consider the most dangerous direction and avenues of fire extension particularly as it effects rescue activities, confinement efforts, and exposure protection. Command must then allocate resources based upon this fire-spread evaluation.

G. Command must consider 7 sides (or divisions) of the fire: Front, back, sides, top, bottom, and interior. (See [E-III-6](#) Building labeling)

IV. OPERATIONS:

A. Time becomes an extremely important factor with regard to attack operations. The bigger the attack, the longer the set up time; the more interior the attack is positioned, the longer it takes. Command must balance and integrate attack size and position with conditions and his resources.

B. Command must develop a fire control plan of attack that first stops the forward progress of the fire and then brings the fire under control

C. Determine fire location and extent before starting fire operations (as far as possible). Do not operate fire streams into smoke, unless you have strategy and safe tactics to do so.

D. Evaluate what is not burning as well as what is actually on fire. The unburned portion represents where the fire is going and should establish the framework for fire control requirements. (Strategy factor).

E. Offensive fires should be fought from the INTERIOR-UNBURNED SIDE (interior capability is the principal offensive strategy factor)

F. Initial attack efforts must be directed toward supporting the primary search-first attack must go between the victims and the fire and protect avenues of escape.

G. Command must structure whatever operations are required to PUT WATER ON THE FIRE and must establish an attack plan that overpowers the fire with actual water application. The rescue/fire control/extension/exposure problem is solved in the majority of cases by a fast, strong, well-placed attack.

H. Don't play "catch up" with a fire that is burning through a building: project your set-up time, write-off lost property and get ahead of the fire. Set up adequately and overpower it.

I. Open up concealed spaces early into the operation. Early identification and response to concealed-space fires can save the structure.