

KIEL HOOK AND LADDER

Butler Volunteer Fire Department

Company Rookie Manual



Edition 2: Fall 2016
Created by D Morse IV

Introduction

Welcome to the Kiel Hook and Ladder Company of the Butler Volunteer Fire Department. Whether you are new to the fire service or have been a member of another Department in the past, the Butler Fire Department is a close-knit organization that has been in operation since 1902. Throughout the years, the Department has changed, but the overall goal has always been to help others in their time of need in any way that we can. The Butler Fire Department has a strong sense of Pride and Tradition going back to the days of our inception. We serve with a Dedication to the members of the Borough of Butler and the surrounding Communities. While Butler may be just under 2 square miles, we are continuously out in the Community helping in anyway we can, whether we are on an Emergency Call or just out on a Public Service Assignment.

Our Department responds to several hundred emergencies per year, including structure and vehicle fires, vehicle accidents, various rescue assignments and other calls for assistance for members of our community. The Butler Fire Department is made up of four companies and several support services. The Companies are the Kinney Hose Company (341), Bartholdi Hose Company (342), Kiel Hook and Ladder Company (343) and Pequannock Engine and Hose Company (344). Along with this we have the Fire Police and the Ladies' Auxiliary who support us at incidents. We currently have two E-One Engines, one KME Rescue-Engine, one Sutphen Aerial Tower, two Dodge Durango Chief Vehicles, one Ford Expedition Fire Police vehicle and one GMC Utility vehicle.

Due to the ever-changing world of being a volunteer firefighter, the members of the Butler Fire Department must maintain a high level of discipline and a high level of competence.

This book has been created to aid you in becoming a well-trained and knowledgeable volunteer and will help you to reach your goals that you wish to achieve as a member. There is a basic set of study material and benchmarks within this book, as well as sample quizzes to help you gauge your proficiency and obtain various statuses as you progress through your Probationary/Rookie time within the Department. Within this booklet, you will find various Department and Company information with regards to operations, as well as station information and apparatus equipment layouts.

We encourage you to look through these materials and familiarize yourself with them. Think of this as a guide to helping you begin your journey as a member of the Kiel Hook and Ladder Company. Do not hesitate to ask questions if you have them, and come to the station to train and learn often. The best way to efficiently progress through this is to train hard, train often and have fun. The more you are at the station, the better the experience you will have! Do not forget to bring this book with you. It contains plenty of things to do at the station while you are there.

Kiel Leadership

TOWER 343



Line Officers	Administrative Officers
Chief: William Dunlap-B4	President: William Dunlap
Captain: Douglas Morse IV	Vice-President: William Landon
Lieutenant: Patrick Hall	Secretary: Edwin Vath
Engineer: Edwin Vath	Treasurer: Joseph Usinowicz

Training

All members of the Butler Fire Department are required by Borough Ordinance to successfully take and pass a NJ Firefighter I class and both physical and written examinations within 12 months of beginning membership with our Department. The NJFFI class is approximately 120 hours of classroom and practical training that can be accomplished by contacting our Captain who will get you in touch with the Department Training Chief.

We are also required to attend annual HazMat Awareness and Operations refresher classes, Blood-borne Pathogens and Right-to-Know classes.

Along with this training, the Company has several drills per month, as well as a Department Drill. Drills begin promptly at 1830 hours every Monday other than holidays unless otherwise stated. The Department drill is scheduled prior to the Department Meeting on the Second Monday of every month. Company Drills are scheduled prior to the Kiel Hook and Ladder meeting on the Third Monday of every month. More drills may be called as the Officers see fit. It is important to attend drills as this is where you will learn how the Company and Department operate.

The Department is now also having a "Duty Crew" night 1 day per week. This involved being "On-Station" from 1800-0000 that day. Shifts can be broken up into two pieces, 1800-2100 and 2100-0000 or you can choose to be on duty for both. It is very helpful for new members to take part in this. A Duty Night will consist of getting the crews established, having dinner, training and anything else as decided by the Officer in Charge.

During your "Rookie" Period, it is important to train and practice. We have many members who are willing to help you learn. The best way to learn and become "unconsciously competent" is to practice. Never hesitate to ask for help!

Station Operating Guideline

The Butler Fire Department prides itself on its ability to work as a team during station and emergency operations. All members must put aside any differences to work towards our goal and mission, To Benefit the Citizens of the Borough of Butler, and assist them in any way that we can.

The following guidelines are designed to help promote a positive team attitude and an efficient, effective working environment:

All personnel shall conduct themselves in an orderly and respectable manner and behave in a way that brings credit to the department. Members shall treat others with respect and refrain from the use of derogatory or foul language both in the station and in the public view.

Personnel shall treat all department and personal property in such a manner so as to avoid damage and prevent loss, theft or destruction of that equipment. Any willful destruction, theft of damage, or failing to make efforts to stop such damage, theft or destruction will be grounds for disciplinary action.

All personnel are required to clean up after themselves and to assist other members in keeping the station clean. This includes, but is not limited, to throwing away trash, washing dishes, cleaning the rooms of the firehouse including the apparatus bay.

Special cleaning details will be called by the Officers if the need is found. This may include cleaning, scrubbing and washing the bay floors, cleaning meetings rooms, vacuuming floors, taking out the trash, cleaning stairwells...etc

All personnel shall make reasonable efforts to maintain building security at all times. No member under any circumstances should give the front door code to any non-member.

Horseplay is not permitted in the station. Fighting will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action.

Any members of the Kiel Hook and Ladder Company who are still enrolled in High-School are to leave the station by 2200 hours on school nights. The exception to this would be if the member responded to a call prior to 2200 hours and the call continues past this time. A member may respond if school is not in session due to weekends, holidays or vacations. A member that is in High-School is also not permitted to respond prior to the school day beginning and may not leave school for an alarm. No emergency calls during this time will negatively affect the member's percentage.

The Captain of the Kiel Hook and Ladder Company will assign all members a gear rack in the apparatus bay. All Probationary/Rookie members are required to leave all Department issued equipment at the firehouse with the exception of use on Emergency Calls, Department functions and Training.

Members are not permitted to leave personal belongings around the station for extended periods of time, and may not use Department/Borough storage areas for personal storage, without the permission of a Chief. Items found to be left at the firehouse for prolonged periods of time will be removed.

Members are expected to read the Bulletin Board in the Apparatus Bay as well as listen to nightly pager tests for notifications regarding special events, notices and changes in policy/procedures.

The Department will also now be utilizing the Password Protected, Members Only Area of ButlerFD.com to provide calendars, schedules and other information to our membership. Please be sure to check this regularly.

Disciplinary Actions

Discipline will be handled as per Company By-laws, Department By-laws and the Borough of Butler Employee Handbook and Borough Ordinance, Chapter 21: Ordinance 2015-14.

All suspensions will be handed down by the Chief of Department. Any officer may make a written request to a Chief if they find the need to discipline a member. The Chief will then make the decision. Any member may go to their superior if they have a grievance regarding another member, at which time that superior may take it to the Chief.

While suspended, a member is not permitted on Fire Department property and may not respond to any Emergency Calls or take part in any Department activities.

A member also has the right to an appeal as per the listed documents.

Alcohol and Controlled Substance Abuse

Consumption of, or being under the influence of alcohol or Controlled Substances on Fire Department property is strictly PROHIBITED.

The only exception is for any special events including meetings at the firehouse, or during the weekly operation of the Bar. Any member who has consumed alcohol is not permitted to respond to any calls during that time. A member who fails to follow this guideline will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Any time there is a Department function where alcohol is present, there will be a "Duty-Crew" who is not permitted to drink alcohol that will be responsible for responding to requests for assistance. In some instances, such as Department Dinners, a Mutual Aid Company will be scheduled to handle incidents.

Visitors In the Station

All personnel shall treat citizens who visit the station for any purpose in a courteous manner. The visitor shall be greeted and their business at the station shall be determined.

Citizens requesting directions or information shall be provided with the requested information to the best of the member's ability.

Citizens requesting to see the station or apparatus shall have a member assigned to them to give a tour and answer any questions.

Visitors are not permitted in the Offices/Lounge without permission of an Officer

All visitors of members are required to leave by 2200 hours unless approved by an Officer

Members of other Fire Departments and citizens who have applied for membership in this department are welcome in the station (Apparatus Bay area only unless approved by an Officer) as long as they abide by the departments station policies.

Parking of Personal Vehicles

Personal vehicles of members shall be parked in the designated parking spaces provided.

No personal vehicles (including motorcycles) are to be in the station unless given permission by an officer.

The Department will not assume liability for damage to any private vehicle brought into the station.

Members cannot store broken or abandoned vehicles for an extended period of time (to be determined by the Chief) unless approval is granted.

Parking spaces located in front of the front door are Reserved for Chief Officers. Parking Spaces located directly behind Chief spots are reserved for Captains and Lieutenants. Any parking spot directly next to a ramp is to be reserved for Handicapped members or citizens.

At the time of an Emergency Response, members are permitted to use any parking space available. Members may also park in the "alleyway" next to the firehouse on the opposite side of the Apparatus Bay. No member is to park in front of any of the Bay Doors at any time, unless instructed to do so by an Officer, or to perform a task.

Uniforms/Helmet Markings/Attire

A Department Chief is assigned to hand out any equipment that may be required including but not limited to structural and rescue gear, protective equipment...etc

The Vice-President of the Department shall issue any Department Uniforms such as the Class A Dress Uniform to any member with 1 year in Good Standing as a member.

Members of Kiel Hook & Ladder, as well as several other companies are issued a Class B Uniform to be worn during special events, drills and Duty Nights.

A company may provide a member with various apparel such as but not limited to Jackets, Job Shirts, Sweatshirts, T-shirt, Shorts, Sweatpants and Hats.

A member may not alter any Fire Gear or Uniforms without the approval of the Chief.

Uniform items are provided for the use in identifying the member when performing Fire Department Duties and should be worn for that purpose whenever possible. Use at other times is left at the discretion of the members, except that all members must bear in mind that their actions reflect on the department when wearing items related to the Department or Company.

Personal protective equipment not supplied by the Department may only be used if approved by the Chief. Helmets will be marked with the member's Company.

A Kiel member will have either a "3" or "343" on their helmet showing them as a Full Member of Kiel Hook and Ladder. A Kiel member will have a "P" shield designating them as a Probationary Member. The member will be in their Probationary period from the time they join at least until they achieve the NJ Firefighter 1 Certification. Any member joining who already has a NJ FF1 Certification will be put on a minimum of a 3 month Probationary period at the discretion of the Captain. Any member's Probationary period may also be extended at the discretion of the Captain.

All active members including probationary members will be given a Department issued Black Helmet.

Officers will have a Department issued Colored Helmet (Chief White, Captain Red, Lieutenant Yellow) with a Department issued White "Number" Shield.

All members must be in full turnout gear for all Emergency calls unless otherwise stated by Command.

Probationary Period

A new member of the Kiel Hook and Ladder Company will be placed on a Probationary Membership Period. The Probationary period will continue until a point in which the member achieves a NJ Firefighter 1 Certification. A member joining with a previous NJ FF1 Certification will be placed on a minimum of a 3 month Probationary Period, which can be extended at the discretion of the Captain. Any Probationary Period may be extended at the discretion of the Captain.

Requirements to attain Full Active Member Status:

Attain a NJ Firefighter 1 Certification.

Have a minimum of 6 months as a Probationary Member (3 months with FF1 prior to joining the Butler Fire Department).

Keep a percentage (including calls, drills, meetings and events) of 50% or higher.

Complete both the "Non-mask" and "Mask" checklists provided in this booklet.

Kiel Hook and Ladder, Tower 343

The Kiel Hook and Ladder Company currently operates a 1991 Sutphen SPH 95 Aerial Tower. This piece of apparatus can carry an Operator, Officer and one other member in the front seat, as well as Two Firefighters in each Jump Seat (One on each Side).

The Tower is about 47 feet long, 9 feet wide and 10 feet tall, weighing in at approximately 60,000 pounds, depending on water weight, crew size and tools.

While in aerial operations, there must be a member on the platform to control the Tower in the event that the Bucket Crew is unable to do so. While flowing water, the Operator must be at the Pump Panel.

While operating, a maximum of 800 pounds can be in the Bucket, unless water is flowing, at which point there is a Two Person limit. The bucket is equipped with two nozzles (One straight, one variable) that can each flow a maximum of 750 GPM for a total of 1500 GPM.

The bucket is also equipped with a 50 foot pony length of 1 ¾" hose that can be connected to enter a structure.

The Tower is the second piece of apparatus to respond to the majority of alarms, with the exception of vehicle accidents. The Tower should be located on the A Side of the building directly in front to allow for operations.

Inventory
(Insert)

On Scene Tasks

Tasks May Be Changed By Command

First Due Truck:

Position – Side Alpha

Responsibility – Ladder the building, Ventilate the building, Perform obvious rescues, Report to the fire floor and carry out normal duties (ventilate, pull ceilings...etc)

Second Due Truck:

Position – Side Charlie

Responsibility – Ladder the building, Ventilate the building, Perform obvious rescues, Report to the fire floor and carry out normal duties (ventilate, pull ceilings...etc)

Additional Trucks:

Position – per Command

Responsibility – per Command

Truck Company Operations

Below are the standard fireground operations to be employed by the truck company and the individual duties associated with these areas of responsibility.

These guidelines are general assignments designed to initiate the truck company's actions on the fireground during the initial stages of the incident.

During fire incidents, truck companies are obligated to perform the following duties:

-Rescue

-The most important duty of the truck – effect obvious rescues first, then a thorough search of the fire building and exposures for victims of the fire. Search and rescue operations will be initiated on every working fire. Report back to the Truck Officer once primary searches are complete.

-Forcible Entry

-Enables the engine company to attack the fire, also to allow the truck company to search all parts of the building.

-Ventilation

-Prompt and correct ventilation is paramount in saving lives and the control of the fire. The amount of damage done in ventilating should be in direct correlation to the severity of the fire.

-Laddering

-The truck will ladder the building at all working fires. Generally the ladders will go to the fire floor first, and then the floors above.

-First Due: Alpha and Bravo Sides

-Second Due: Charlie and Delta Sides

-Fire Extension

-Always keep the truck officer and the fireground commander aware of the fires progress. The check for extension shall be performed as soon as possible and can be combined with many of the other truck duties.

-Overhaul

-Generally, the truck crew will regroup and operate as a team to perform this function. Ensure that the fire is extinguished and the building is structurally safe.

-Elevated Steams

-Truck must be able to switch to master stream operations quickly and be in the right position when needed.

Do not hesitate to take an aggressive approach to your truck duties, but remember the amount of damage done should be in direct correlation to the fire severity.

This standard is established to ensure that the duties and areas assigned to the truck company on responses are dealt with effectively and efficiently, and must be followed by ALL personnel. The Officer of the truck company is the only one other than Command who may vary the standard as they see fit.

Interior Duties:

- Effect Obvious Rescues
- Forcible Entry
- Primary Search and Rescue
- Search for Extension
- Ventilation
- Secondary Search and Rescue
- Salvage and Overhaul

Exterior Duties:

- Effect Obvious Rescues
- Search and Rescue
- Ground Ladders
- Aerial Ladders
- Ventilation
- Elevated Streams

Members of the truck crews are to perform these duties as necessary on all structural fires. Additionally, the crew has assigned areas in which to perform these duties outlined on the following pages.

The Crew will assemble in the Following Order:

- 1- Driver
- 2- Officer
- 3- Can Seat
- 4- Irons Seat
- 5- Vent Seat
- 6- Roof Seat
- 7- Officer 2 (Spare, leave open unless needed)

Driver

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Radio

Job: Assist with any horizontal Ventilation as well as laddering the building with the Officer Side Crew.

Aerial Call

Tools: Radio, Lights

Job: Set up stabilizers with Irons Seat. Ensure Vent Seat has made connections to LDH Intake. Give power to platform (Can Seat) and ensure truck is in pump operations. Prepare for aerial operations and water flow. Also turn on generator and prepare any scene lighting/power that may be required.

Officer

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Tool, Radio, Light

Job: Work with Driver Side crew to find and extinguish any fire as well as any extension that may be present as a result.

Aerial Call

Tools: Tools, Radio, Light

Job: Operate aerial tower and attempt to effect any rescues, ventilation or exterior fire suppression as required by Command. Work with Roof Seat to perform any interior work required by Command

Can Seat

Driver-side Rear Facing

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Can, Light

Job: Find any small fires and extinguish with can. Also work with Irons Seat to check inside any areas where small fires may have been present.

Aerial Call

Tools: Platform, Radio

Job: Operate the turntable platform. Ensure that the operations at the tower level to not put any crew members in danger. Also act as the liason between the tower and the pump operator in the event of radio failure.

Irons Seat

Driver-side Side Facing

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Irons, Radio

Job: Find any extension with small fires inside walls and ceilings. Also work with Can Seat to check inside any areas where small fires may have been present.

Aerial Call

Tools: Radio, Irons

Job: Assist truck operator with setup of stabilizer legs for aerial operations. Following that, act as a primary search crew with Vent Seat unless primary has already been completed.

Vent Seat

Officer-side Rear Facing

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Hook, Radio

Job: Provide any horizontal ventilation as per Command. Also ladder roof/second floor window on two sides of building as per Command. Also work with Roof Seat to perform any additional ventilation per Command.

Aerial Call

Tools: Hook, Radio

Job: Connect large-diameter hose from tower to engine. Ensure all connections are secure. Following connection, work with Irons Seat to complete primary search/or other tasks advised by Command.

Roof Seat

Officer-side Side Facing

Non-Aerial call

Tools: Ax, Light

Job: Work with Vent Seat to ladder the roof/second floor and perform any horizontal ventilation per Command

Aerial Call

Tools: Ax, Saw, Light

Job: Second man in aerial tower. Perform any ventilation as required on the roof. Work with Officer Seat to perform ventilation including roof ventilation/other tasks as assigned by Command.

Butler Fire – Kiel Hook and Ladder
Probationary Firefighter Check-Off
Truck Company Non-Mask

Prior to riding the Tower in a non-mask capacity at the Butler Fire Department, Kiel Hook and Ladder Company, the volunteer firefighter will meet the following training objectives. As each objective is met, a Kiel Officer will sign their name in the appropriate area to verify that the objective has been met. It is the responsibility of the firefighter to meet these objectives by training, participating in drills and practicing.

Name: _____

General Truck

- 1) Describe how you would ventilate a window with a ground ladder and what a cleared window is.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 2) Demonstrate how you would tie off various tools for hoisting (chain saw, pike pole, axe, halligan, handline).

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 3) Explain the difference between horizontal and vertical ventilation.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 4) Demonstrate the following knots:

Clove Hitch

Bowline

Figure 8 Family

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

5) Raise the following ladders using any appropriate method:

Roof Ladder (1 person)

24 foot extension (2 person)

35 foot extension (2 person)

40 foot Bangor (5-6 person)

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

6) Demonstrate how to check, start and operate saws and fans.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

7) Explain how to return power tools back to service after use.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

8) Demonstrate the use of on-board generator, Spot Lights and Cord Reels.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

9) Act as second person in bucket, fully extended to 95 feet, 75 degree angle.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

10) Describe the general make up of the Tower (Make, Model, Year, Aerial Length, Generator Size).

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

11) Describe various types and quantities of ladders on the truck.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

12) Explain where ground ladders are placed if we are the first/second due truck on an apartment fire.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

13) Correctly explain prioritizing ladder throwing when multiple rescues must be made.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

All Complete

Date: _____

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Officer Name: _____

Officer Signature: _____

Butler Fire – Kiel Hook and Ladder
Probationary Firefighter Check-Off
Truck Company Mask

Prior to riding the Tower in a mask capacity at the Butler Fire Department, Kiel Hook and Ladder Company, the volunteer firefighter will meet the following training objectives. As each objective is met, a Kiel Officer will sign their name in the appropriate area to verify that the objective has been met. It is the responsibility of the firefighter to meet these objectives by training, participating in drills and practicing.

Name: _____

General Truck

- 1) Describe the interior riding positions of the Tower and what their specific roles and responsibilities and what tools they would bring.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 2) Explain the following forcible entry techniques and demonstrate on various station doors:

Inward swinging (1 person)
Inward swinging (2 person)
Inward swinging with W-Tool
Outward swinging (2 person)

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 3) Demonstrate a primary search and proper victim removal.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 4) Explain the premise behind VES and what each letter stands for.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

- 5) Explain the 2nd due truck responsibilities on a basement fire with a secondary entrance from the outside.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

6) Explain checking for extension and the specifics of garden apartment fire extension.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

7) Describe the acronym LOVERS-U and how it pertains to truck operations.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

8) Explain the riding positions of the Tower if there is a total of:

- 4 people on the truck
- 5 people on the truck
- 6 people on the truck
- 7 people on the truck

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

9) Briefly explain how people riding the Tower can assist Engine companies with their mission of extinguishment of a fire.

Date: _____ Officer's Signature: _____

Do not advance an uncharged line into a hallway with heavy smoke and heat. The danger of flashover is very real in this situation. Remember your charged hose line is your only means of protection. When attaching the backup bag to any of our lines to extend it DO NOT leave the bail unattended unless you have successfully tied the bail off so it will not shut. This can be a common problem especially in a smoke filled hallway or staircase. The amount of traffic running or crawling towards the fire allows for a good chance that someone is going to kick or hit the bail shut.

When you're taking off the tips of the nozzle to advance the backup bag do not leave the tips lying on the ground. Put it in your pocket and keep it with you, otherwise it will be stolen. Our standpipe pack can be very heavy, there is nothing to say that if we run a box at the Home Depot, you can't throw the pack in a shopping cart and push it to the area of the connections.

If you're physically exhausted from running the standpipe up 19 floors for a fire on the 20th floor do not let your pride get in the way of asking the backup man to go ahead and take the line while you make the connection at the globe valve. When you are physically exhausted you tend to not think clearly and start making mistakes. When you start making mistakes is when people start getting hurt.

Do not let the line get caught underneath a door. It is very easy to hit the connection from the floor below and when advancing the line, having the door from the staircase to the hall close with your line underneath. If this occurs and the line gets charged you will get no water and be unable to open the door. You may very well become trapped. Use your door chocks!!!

Standpipes

Hook up to the standpipe on the floor below the fire. After hooking to the standpipe, advance the line up the stairs past the fire floor to the landing above and then back down to the fire floor before charging the line. This allows for the line to be fully flaked out and allows for easier advancement onto the fire floor (Pulling with the force of gravity is always easier than pulling against it!)

Remember to make sure the straps are tight on the shoulder load. We don't want them to come undone when we are carrying it.

Always bring the back up bag. This is the back up mans job. There is no worse feeling than advancing the line down the hall and seeing fire blowing out from an apartment door and not being able to go to it because you're short by 15 feet.

Before trying to open a standpipe rider cap, ensure the valve is shut, otherwise you will not be able to get the cap off due to the pressure.

When securing the line onto a standpipe riser ensure that you are not loosening the hose connection while you are tightening the reducer onto the riser. Otherwise when the system is turned on, the few threads that are holding the hose will blow off.

When confronted with a large volume of fire in a high-rise type building, consider putting together a quick high rise pack using a 2 ½" line.

Consider a flying standpipe in the event of a mid-rise building with no standpipe. Also consider if the standpipe system may be damaged.

20 Fair Assumptions about Garden Apartment Fires

1. If you see a plumbing truck/van in front of the building where you are sent to investigate an odor of smoke you can assume the building is on fire.
2. If you find fire in the terrace level apartment you can assume there is already fire in the attic.
3. In the typical garden apartment there are usually 4 apartments per floor, with 2-4 floors that is 12-16 apartments. You can assume someone is home.
4. If the building is on fire you can assume there will be people out screaming on the balconies. What you cannot assume is that they are all in need of rescue.
5. You can assume that the incident priorities remained unchanged: life safety, incident stabilization, and property conservation. Place the first line in support of these objectives. (This means you have to secure the interior stairs and protect the search)
6. You can assume you will need:
 - One line for the original fire
 - One line for the back up line
 - One line for the floor above
 - One line for the attic/cockloft
7. Assuming #6 you can assume that a standard 4 engine, 2 truck, one rescue first alarm assignment will not be enough. You will need to commit four hand lines quickly and you have only four engine companies. (I prefer to call for help in alarm-sized packages)
8. You can assume that every single one of those four hand lines will be going through the front door, you can also assume that someone will be screaming the muffled screams of a tired firefighter in SCBA, screaming for someone to, "feed me some line." Then you will hear the second scream, "which one?"
9. You can assume that once #8 happens, progress will be slow. (*The moral of this story is to not stretch more than two lines through the same opening*)
10. You can assume that someone on the fire alarm will have to stretch a long line. This means that companies should really train hard on deploying long lines, and figuring ways other than the front door to get in the place.
11. You can assume that the front does not look like that back. Ensure that companies due to the rear are giving a size-up including the number of floors in the rear.
12. You can assume that if you "lose" the interior stairwell your ability to preserve life has been severely compromised.
13. You can assume that unless the building is fully involved, and I mean the entire thing is on fire, that a 2 ½" line is going to be too big to move around. The guys with the smaller lines may take a second or two longer, but they will still put the fire out.

14. You can assume that you will only get one shot at proper apparatus placement. Don't get caught up in the drama, take the extra few seconds to get a good spot. You only get one shot at it.
15. You can assume that unexposed fire in the voids will cost more than the damaged drywall in apt 402. (Open the joint up and fast) You can also assume that fire is in the voids.
16. You can assume that the fire will travel to the exposure buildings through the attic/cockloft space.
17. You can assume that someone will declare the "search complete," but not say that they only checked on apartment. It is damn near impossible for one crew of three or four to do a good search of 12-16 apartments in a reasonable amount of time. If you need help searching, ask for it.
18. You can assume that if the fans are started before the voids are opened and cleared, you will need one alarm in addition to what you have on the scene.
19. You can assume that the trench cut will take more time, more people and more saws than you thought, and in my book longer than pulling the ceilings on the top floor. I ain't saying don't use trench cuts, but I usually don't.
20. You can sometimes assume that you will have water supply issues in these complexes, especially those on private loops. Take the time to pre-plan, do some flow tests, develop some station level plans in concert with SOPs, and put the fire out.

You cannot properly and safely respond to a reported structural fire with 4-5 people as your first alarm assignment.

NEVER get off the apparatus without at least ONE tool in your hand plus a light.

Stay low, even the best bunker gear will not protect you when you are STANDING UP in a fire.

When you hear “We have less fires today!?!?” Tell’m “then we MUST have even MORE quality, realistic and aggressive training.” Training is NOT handing someone an American heat video and telling them to watch it... those may be INTERESTING but training must be physically “doing.”

Which line to pull? (general rule of thumb) Residential 1 3/4.” line. Commercial or MultiOccupancy 2 1/2” line with immediate following backups. If you pull ONE LINE, you must ALWAYS pull a second line. They can always be put away. But it sucks when you need the “missing” second line and it’s too late.

Beware of the firefighter who tells you he has survived numbers “real” flashovers and doesn’t act scared.

Beware of the firefighter who “doesn’t need any more training.”

Train and act as if motorists are blind and want to hurt you while on the highway.

Make sure your apparatus is so visible and loud that it annoys people.

When you are told to open up a roof, make sure it is big enough to drive a small car through.

Stay out of the doorway leading to the fire-you are blocking things.

Make sure the door won’t close behind you. Carry wooden wedges.

Make sure garage doors don’t close behind you. Assign a firefighter to it.

Make sure a plier/wirecutter and knife are in your coat pocket-where you can get to it when geared and packed up.

PASS devices don’t work when we have to remember to turn them on.

If UPS can track packages, why can’t we track firefighters just as easily and quick.

Positive pressure works well, AFTER the fire is under control.

An automatic alarm is a FIRE until we get there and determine it's not (If you have good enforcement over false alarms, the problem of false alarms can be minimized. EMS is important, but we can get hurt or killed a lot easier at a fire.

No one determines the status of a fire except the FD. No one cancels the FD except one of our own.

Power tools need regular daily maintenance and checking.

Lay a supply line on EVERY reported fire, you can always put it back.

As Brannigan says, "The building is your enemy" –KNOW your enemy before the battle. There is NO excuse for not having every structure (except residential) pre-planned in the "first due" area. There is nothing BETTER than having it when you have a working fire.

Big Fire? Big Water! Sometimes a handline is NOT the answer. How fast can your FD deploy a ground monitor?

We cannot use single family dwelling tactics on a commercial or large area building fire. Plan, train and practice for those fires too.

Beware of firefighters who have 6 months on the job with a mouth of "22 years of experience."

There are essentially 2 ways to protect firefighters from a flashover. 1-vent, 2-cool with water. It takes adequate staffing to do both. We must remember to Vent early, VENT often and VENT in coordination with the other crews.

Career firefighters? Volunteer Firefighters? Paid-On-Call Firefighters? We have all seen great ones and clueless ones on all sides of the business. The labels mean nothing. It's all performance based.

Firefighters, you joined to serve. So don't try to "customize" the FD to meet YOUR personal needs. Respond quickly everytime the tones go off and participate in training regularly.

Officers: Your primary job is proper size up, quick report and appropriate initial leadership. It is NOT just to blow the sirens, horns and scream on the radio. The safety of your crew is #1. Take the front seat seriously.

Officers: Your absolute primary job is to send your crew home in one piece after the run. Can your crew and their family trust you to do that? Do you have the experience, training and knowledge required to do that?

Officers: Doing accountability AFTER we realize that someone is missing sucks. Firefighters, sometimes you DON'T have to say or input on all decisions. An FD is not always a democracy.

A CO Alarm going off is not a red light and siren run.

Officers should generally be trusted by the Chiefs, but Chiefs should ALWAYS look after the Officers.

Beware of the Chief who doesn't go to fires because he "totally" trust the officers. Sorta like a football coach who doesn't go to the game.

Beware of the Chief who says "we are an EMS department that also, occasionally goes to a fire"

Firefighting is all about the things your mother told you not to do

- Get Dirty
- Break things
- Swear

"A good friend will bail you out of jail, but your best friend will be the one sitting next to you saying 'That was f***ing awesome!'"

"When fear knocks at the door, and you answer, there will be no one there."

"A friend is a person who will have a beer with you, a best friend is one who will be puking in the toilet next to you, but a borther is one who will follow you through the gates of hell, right behind you and do all the above when it is all over."

Anonymous – Infantryman's Journal 1954

Three Rules of Leadership

- 1- When in charge, TAKE CHARGE
- 2- People want you to take charge. When you do, however, your own people will resist you.
- 3- When they do resist-GET OVER IT and move on.

"That's the life, being a fireman. It sure beats being a ballplayer. I'd rather be a fireman." -Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox – 1940

"Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless facing them."

"The probability of someone watching you is proportional to the stupidity of your action."

"LET NO MAN'S GHOST RETURN TO SAY HIS TRAINING LET HIM DOWN."

“If you’re not going to wear your turn-out gear properly you need to establish a ‘good-friend agreement.’ I just hope you have a good enough friend who will wipe your ass for you while your burns are bandaged up for six months.” –Battalion Chief John Salka, FDNY

“A certificate does not make you certified. Attitude, performance and commitment to self and team; These and a certificate make you certified.”

Types of Construction

Listed below are the 5 Classifications of Building Construction with Brief descriptions. For more information refer to the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook – NFPA 220, Standard Types of Building Construction – and local building codes

Type I – Fire Resistive

Structure will not contribute fuel to fire; load-bearing structural members protected; fire collapse not a strategic consideration; anticipate rapid fire growth due to big BTU fire load; large open areas; vertical voids; letting an entire floor or floors burn can be a prudent confinement strategy.

Type II – Non-Combustible

Structure will not contribute fuel to fire; due to unprotected load-bearing structural members, fire load and possible early collapse are key strategic considerations; high-rack storage, unprotected steel columns and steel bar-joist trusses are primary considerations; know location of suspended loads; fire load will vary widely by occupancy use.

Type III – Ordinary (Conventional and Lightweight)

Exterior walls will not contribute fuel to fire; how walls are tied to interior of unreinforced masonry is critical information; interior load-bearing members and partitions will contribute considerable fuel to fire; less mass equals less time; identify unprotected steel columns; combustible lightweight floor and roofing systems are common; open stairwells and attic voids are confinement considerations; beware bearing walls removed and replaced by unprotected support systems; multiple interconnected voids will contribute to rapid fire growth; fire load varies by occupancy use; tilt-up with panelized roof system equals ordinary construction.

Type IV – Heavy Timber (Mill)

Basically a Type III building on steroids; exterior walls will not contribute fuel to fire; interior load-bearing members will contribute considerable fuel to fire; more mass equals more time; scrutinize connections; timber trusses are not uncommon; multiple interconnected voids will contribute to fire growth; unprotected steel, suspended loads and open stairwells must be considered; identify self-releasing floor systems at columns.

Type V – Wood Frame

Entire structure can contribute fuel to fire; if not conventional, expect lightweight combustible floor and roof systems; open stairwells and large open attics are primary considerations for confinement and rapid fire growth; create a door for rapid rescue and alternative access/egress (no permit needed); understand fire behavior in older balloon frame; lightweight floor systems can create horizontal balloon frame; offensive benefit from defensive position can be easy.