



Exterior Operations

Discussion

Defensive operations require careful control and coordination by all companies on the fireground. Master stream device safety, observance of collapse danger zones, and careful monitoring of crew activities are some of the responsibilities of officers. Pump operators must monitor water flow requirements vs. available water, consideration of traffic hazards and apparatus placement to prevent damage from heat. Firefighters must be aware of overhead collapse dangers, overhead wires and other fire spread conditions that could affect their safety. Some general safety rules include, always have an escape route from your position, do not lower portable master streams below manufacturer stop points for portable use, and always consider the potential for collapse. Night operations will require the use of lighting to observe building components and fire/smoke behavior. Discuss these operations and review department procedures for operations in defensive/exterior operations.



Discuss the good and bad qualities of these photos and how your department would handle these incidents.

Apparatus Operators Corner

1. What are your responsibilities when positioning your apparatus at defensive operations?
2. How do you calculate available water for master streams or heavy water movement operations?
3. What is the residual psi that must be on your compound gauge when flow large volumes of water in a relay operation?
4. If your apparatus is equipped with an aerial device, describe how you would achieve maximum water flow through it.
5. What are the safe operation limits of the aerial device or of the master stream device that would be used in exterior operations?
6. Review procedures for achieving maximum water flow from your apparatus.

Officers Corner

1. What is your radio designation when operating in an exterior operation?
2. How will you calculate the amount of water needed for defensive/exterior operations?
3. What are your initial attack capabilities of your apparatus if you are first due at any of the above situations that require defensive tactics?
4. How do you determine the proper collapse danger zone for buildings? How would you effectively apply streams through this zone so that personnel are not required to operate within the zone?
5. What are some of the predictors of collapse in the 5 types of building construction?
6. What are the effects of time, water application, time the fire is burning and weather on collapse potential?

Firefighters Corner

1. What are your tool assignments for initial attack at a defensive/exterior fire operation?
2. Describe how pre-piped and portable master stream devices are put into service on your apparatus.
3. What is the tip configuration of the master stream devices on your apparatus; size, type and gpm's?
4. What are the safeties available for use with the master stream devices?
5. What conditions can help predict that collapse potential exists?
6. Describe or demonstrate the proper positioning for handline operations on exterior operations. Who is positioned where on the line, how is the line moved, and how do you back-up the nozzleman?