

MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Operational Guidelines

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2012

2.0 – APPL (Appliance Fire)

PURPOSE

Responses for appliance fires generally involve stove or clothes dryer fires, but may include furnace, compactor, microwave, refrigerator, industrial, HVAC or other electric or natural gas powered equipment. All appliance fire responses should be regarded as potential working fire incidents until a thorough and professional investigation proves otherwise.

SCOPE

Treat this response as a serious fire condition until proven otherwise or the situation is mitigated. Every effort should be made to isolate the specific circuit or gas line prior to shutting down gas at the meter or the main electric at the panel. Consider any burning electrical appliance to be a Class C (Electrical) fire, and select the appropriate extinguisher containing a non-conductive agent, such as a multi-purpose dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguisher. If the fire involved refrigerant, as in a freezer, refrigerator, or air conditioner, consider contacting the Hazardous Materials Team. Grease fires should be treated as a Class B (Flammable Liquid) fire. The multi-purpose dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguisher is the appropriate extinguisher for such fires.

GUIDELINE

1. Establish Command
2. Size up conditions on the exterior of the building
 - a. Attempt to gain a complete a 360° survey of the structure.
3. Position apparatus
 - a. Identify the presence and location of the nearest hydrant(s) and Fire Department Connection(s) (FDC)
 - b. Position the Truck Company in an advantageous position, preferably with the turntable at the corner of the building
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
5. Initiate and maintain communications
 - a. Provide first in report
 - b. Ensure the rig V-Tac is set to the proper incident talk group.
6. Attempt to gain access to the main point of entry and/or speak with any available building staff or fleeing occupants.
 - a. Priorities are rapid investigation, fire control and search
 - b. Request dispatch make notification to We Energies Gas-Electric and/or the Hazardous Materials Team if needed
7. Implement incident action plan as appropriate to the investigation
8. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
9. Transfer command to appropriate entity once incident has been mitigated