



Toms River Fire Department

Bulletin Number
09-02

Effective Date
8/18/09

Training Bulletin

Title: Structural Firefighting: Basement/ Cellar/ Below Grade Fires

Tactical Supplement To Private Dwellings and Commercial Buildings Using Offensive Strategy

Purpose: Provide the Incident Commander, Fire Officers, and Acting Officers a tactical deployment model for below grade fires.

Scope: Offensive fire operations in all types of occupancies.

Guideline:

I. 1st Hose line

- a. Top of interior stairs via main entrance.
 1. Protect means of egress and any upward fire extension.
 2. Locate any victims between main entrance and interior stairs.
- b. Enter basement for fire attack If:
 1. Access from exterior lower level can not be made.
 2. Back up line must be in place at top of stairs.
 3. F.A.S.T. team must be in place.

II. 2nd Hose Line (Primary Extinguishment Line)

- a. Enter basement from an exterior entrance from the same level as the fire.
- b. Extinguish body of fire from exterior cellar windows to allow for a safer interior advancement down stairs.

III. Ventilation

- a. Ventilate 1st floor and upper floors
- b. Check for fire extension in attic and on upper floors.
- c. Cut hole in floor over fire.
- d. Cut holes to insert Bresnan Distributor.

Caution: Do not operate on concrete floors of a commercial structure if there is a fire in the basement that may be impinging on floor joists.

Truss or wood I-beam floor joists may collapse without warning.