



COLLETON COUNTY FIRE - RESCUE

To: All Personnel
From: David A. Greene, Assistant Chief
Date: 1 September 2011
Subject: Structure Fire Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DAG", is written over the "From:" line of the header.

Dispatch will be implementing a new policy for structure fires very soon. It is the implementation of Departmental Directive 2.2.12., which states the following:

2.2.12. Once command is established, all radio traffic between dispatch and units operating on scene should be through the IC. During Structure Fires, the CAD timer will alert every 15 minutes to remind the communications officer to check the status of the incident by calling the IC. The IC's reply to the status check should be recorded in CAD. If the IC indicates the fire is under control or that no further 15-minute status checks are necessary. The IC will also transmit times that must be documented (i.e. fire under control times, patients extricated times, delay times, etc.).

It is the second sentence that will be implemented. Once command is established, the dispatcher will contact the Incident Commander every **10** minutes (the directive will be updated to reflect the new time) to check on the status of the incident until the I.C. transmits that the fire is under control. After that time, no further checks will be performed for that incident. These checks should serve as a reminder to Incident Commanders to check on structural stability and incident progress. The current firefighting curriculum refers to the once piece of the fire tetrahedron as "fuel." In previous curricula this was referred to as the "reducing agent" which means that both the contents and the structure itself are reducing in size. It is critical to recognize the fact that every 10 minutes, if the fire is not getting better then it is getting worse. If you are still conducting interior operations after the first or second check from dispatch and the fire is still progressing, it is very likely time to consider switching to defensive (exterior) operations. During exterior operations, the checks from dispatch will remind I.C.'s to conduct PAR checks. Once the fire has been "knocked down" and the incident moves from attack to overhaul, the I.C. should declare the fire under control and transmit "fire under control" to dispatch. Further checks for that incident will be discontinued.

If you have any questions regarding this policy implementation, please contact the training division or myself.