



PROCEDURES MANUAL

SUBJECT: Structure Fire Operations – Ventilation

NUMBER:

203.01.09

APPROVED:

FIRE CHIEF

TYPE: Structure Fire Operations

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/2020

Page 1 of 2

REVISED DATE: 12/2020

203.01.09 Structure Fire Operations – Ventilation

A. Purpose

To establish guidelines for the appropriate placement and timing of ventilating a structure at a working fire.

- B. Ventilation **must** be closely coordinated with fire attack. The ventilation crew shall communicate with the fire attack line prior to venting the structure to assure the line is in position.

C. Ventilation Hazards

1. Provides a flow path for fire spread.
2. Improper ventilation can cause an increase in fire spread and intensity.

D. Vent Vertically at the Roof

1. Where appropriate (directly above the fire) and only when the fire attack line is in position to put water on the fire
2. When to Vent the Roof:
 - a. Private Dwelling when the fire is on the upper floor or involving the attic space.
 - b. Multi-Dwelling when the fire is on the top floor.
 - c. Multi-Dwelling when smoke is in the stairwell and stairwell needs vented.
 - d. Multi-Dwelling when fire is in the attic space.

E. Vent Horizontally:

1. When appropriate and **only** when the fire attack line is in position to put water on the fire.
2. When to vent Horizontally
 - a. Private Dwelling when the fire is on a lower floor and venting a window will release heat and smoke from the fire room.
 - b. Multi-Dwelling when the fire is in any location other than the top floor.

- c. Multi-Dwelling when the fire is limited to one compartment, bedroom or apartment.

F. Basement Ventilation

When holes for ventilation are made in a floor, they should be cut near a window, if possible, so that the smoke can exit through the window.

G. Positive Pressure Ventilation

1. Start at the direction of Command.
2. Void spaces where there is potential for fire extension, shall be opened up prior to beginning positive pressure ventilation.
3. Large churches or commercial buildings consider requesting the Regional Ventilation Unit from Point Pleasant, KY Fire Department.