



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

S.O.P Number: 600	Effective Date: October 1, 2010
Section: 610	
Subject: Service Calls and Miscellaneous Fires	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Steven Paine	

Section 610 - Service Calls and Miscellaneous Fires

Purpose: To establish strategic and tactical approach guidelines when responding to service calls and miscellaneous fire calls not otherwise covered by this manual.

Scope: These guidelines pertain to all Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel when responding as a first-in company or as a mutual aid company.

Policy:

Brush & Grass Fires

Brush and grass fires are generally extinguished with booster lines and/or 1¾" hose lines, although larger streams may be utilized due to conditions including but not limited to exposure problems, large fire involvement, and severe wind conditions.

Brush and grass fires should be approached from the upwind side of the fire at the "heel", thereby reducing the possibility of exposure problems for firefighting personnel due to flying embers, smoke, fire travel, etc. Personnel should begin the attack at the heel and then flank the sides of the fire, thus confining and extinguishing of the fire.

Incident Commanders will ensure that a proper and thorough overhaul is conducted.

Trash Fires

Trash fires are to be extinguished with lines no smaller than 1¾", in rare circumstances; the booster line can be utilized. Personnel should be alert to possible exposure risks that may exist with garbage dumpsters or containers located within close proximity to buildings and any other exposure(s). Personnel should also be aware of the uncertain nature of the materials burning within trash containers and take whatever precautionary measures they deem necessary, staying upwind when and where possible. SCBA must always be used at a trash fire unless otherwise advised by crew Officer. All trash fires must be properly and thoroughly extinguished and overhauled. If necessary, personnel will utilize hand tools to reach the seat of the fire and/or tip over the container to expose the burning material(s).



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Wash-Downs

It is not Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department policy to conduct any wash downs. If called or requested to perform such functions, Public Works will immediately be notified and requested to make the scene.

It is essential to approach the scene of reported wash-downs or other spill with care, as the spilled product may be unknown or of a hazardous nature. If the spill is small and the product is common fuel, gasoline, oil, antifreeze, etc., then it is appropriate to apply an absorbent material such as Speedy Dry or sand to the spill, if on-hand. Arrangements must be made to remove the sand or Speedy Dry once the product has been absorbed.

In the event of a large scale spill or if the substance is of a potentially hazardous nature then the Hazardous Materials Response Team must be notified immediately.

Under no circumstances will Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department wash down spills or vehicle leaks off roadways, driveways, or any other surface. If immediate containment is necessary, take any appropriate actions but do not wash down with fire hose.

Gas & CO Incidents

Haz-Mat units and TECO Gas Co. must be notified immediately of all natural gas emergencies and requested to respond to the scene.

Until the arrival of Haz-Mat units and TECO Gas Co., Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel and apparatus will be kept a safe distance away from and upwind from the area of origin. In the event of open fire being fed by natural gas, then no attempt should be made to extinguish the fireball until the gas source is located. Once the gas supply is shut down, the fire may be extinguished. In the interim, personnel will protect the exposures adjacent to the gas leak and cool the fireball, as well as any civilian personnel.

Depending on circumstances including the volume, location, time of day, etc., the Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department may be called upon to evacuate civilians from the immediate danger zone. All Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department firefighters and officers must utilize SCBA and full PPE while evacuating and operating at gas emergencies. All potential sources of ignition should be neutralized and rendered safe, when possible. The Incident Commander must ensure that a large enough hot zone is created so that firefighters, apparatus, and civilians are neither exposed nor threatened.

It is likely that TECO Gas Co will be delayed. In such cases, the Incident Commander may elect to shut the gas source involved. Only trained personnel will perform this function.



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Electrical Emergencies

SHUT OFF power immediately, if possible!

When the Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department is dispatched to electrical emergencies, Florida Power and Light (FPL) must immediately be notified and requested to respond to the scene.

If electrical power lines are involved, ensure that the apparatus, firefighter, and all civilians are kept a safe distance away. **All wires should be treated as if live and fully charged.** It should be noted that live wires arc and can jump, creating an even greater hazard. Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel shall **NOT** attempt to place any object on top of a downed wire in order to restrict its movement. Only properly trained Florida Power and Light (FPL) or other utility responders should approach or handle power lines.

If a downed wire ignites combustible materials adjacent to it, water is NOT to be used to extinguish the fire. Protection of exposures will be maintained at a safe distance.

If wires are burning on the service poles, Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department personnel must keep themselves, apparatus, and civilians a safe distance away from (and never under) these wires. It is important to always be aware of the possibility of burning insulation, wire, etc. falling to the ground. Apparatus will block off the street and keep no less than two service poles between responders and the burning wire in all directions.

If electrical wires are burning within a structure, then the above listed guidelines will be followed. The use of the Thermal Imaging Camera will be used to assist the Incident Commander. However, if an interior attack on the fire must be commenced then personnel will do so utilizing full PPE (including SCBA). Personnel should be aware of products of combustion that are often emitted from various types of wire insulation, along with ballasts and other older electrical fixtures.

Bomb Threats

In the unlikely event, that Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department is dispatched to a reported bomb threat, then responding personnel will remain with the apparatus at the firehouse and standby until requested to respond or released by the Fire Chief or his designated representative. The Fire Chief or his designee **ONLY** will respond to the scene of the bomb threat and coordinate with the senior law enforcement official. Together they will determine the appropriate course of action. The Officer standing-by at the fire station will advise the Chief of the number of personnel available.

If the Lauderdale by the Sea Fire Department is dispatched to a bomb detonation, then no firefighting evolutions will take place until the Incident Commander consults with the senior law enforcement officials at the scene to determine if entry is safe for firefighting personnel. Secondary detonations and explosions are a serious risk, so care must be taken. The Lauderdale



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by The Sea Fire Department Incident Commander will follow instructions given by law enforcement officials with approval of the Lauderdale by The Sea Fire Department Fire Chief.