FIRE RESCUE
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
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Albemarle County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Executive Committee Agenda

Monday, July 8, 2024 | 1630 Hours | Fire Rescue Conference Room 2

Agenda Item	Name
I. Call to Order A. From the Board: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda	D. Eggleston
II. Approval of Consent Agenda A. June 3, 2024 Minutes	D. Eggleston
III. Unfinished Business A. Training and Registration Policy	H. Childress
IV. New Business A. Garden Apartment FOG	D. Puckett
V. Next Meeting A. Monday, August 5, 2024	

ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE/EMS BOARD
FEMS BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 – 1630 HOURS

A virtual meeting of the Albemarle County Fire/EMS Board Executive Committee was held on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 1630 hours.

The following members were in attendance:
Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Virginia Leavell, Charlottesville/Albemarle Rescue Squad
Dennis Hahn, Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department
Kostas Alibertis, Western Albemarle Rescue Squad

Others in attendance:
Greg McFadyen, Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department
David Puckett, Albemarle County Fire Rescue

I. Call to Order
Chief Eggleston called the meeting to order at 1631 hrs.

II. Consent Agenda

A. April 8, 2024 Minutes
MOTION: Chief Alibertis motioned, seconded by Chief Hahn, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

III. Unfinished Business

A. Training and Registration Policy
Chief Puckett stated that the policy would be moved officially to FEMS, but the Executive Committee had not yet taken any action on it.

Chief Alibertis said the only two items they talked about were the planning for alternates if they only had 10 days' notice; and the wait list by station and not by individual.

Chief Hahn stated that the registration for these classes was 3–4 months long, and he wondered if the sign-up period should be 4–6 weeks.

Chief Eggleston responded that it may not be within their control.

Chief Hahn said that perhaps it could be a recommendation.

Chief McFadyen stated that he looked at the last three registration cycles, and all of them were four months.

Chief Eggleston asked if they were recommending shorter cycles.

Chief Hahn said that it seemed to make more sense to have shorter cycles.

Chief Eggleston commented that he thought there were limitations with Cornerstone.

Chief Alibertis mentioned that Cornerstone was maxed out at 10 days, so they would have to work through the wait list prior to that, and if someone was an alternate, they could go ahead and register. He noted that this was a process question, not a policy.

Chief Leavell noted that they were picking people off of the waitlist, not Cornerstone.

Chief Alibertis said that they somehow need to make it the station and not the person, then the station can determine who the attendees are.

Chief Hahn stated that Chief Dillon may have misunderstood this, because people dragged this out and waited until the last minute—so perhaps shortening the registration time would help.

Ms. Davis explained that the class period closes three weeks before the class ends, which gives it enough time to get into Cornerstone.

Chief McFadyen said that the way that 4.1 is written states that taking a class sponsored by ACFR—whether it be CPR or EMT—would require a LODA physical first.

Chief Eggleston agreed.

Chief Alibertis said that was true as long as they were affiliated with an agency, but a lot of times they are taking classes before they are members.

Chief Hahn pointed out that you've got to be affiliated to get into Firefighter I, and you don't for EMT classes.

Chief Alibertis explained that there are a lot of people who will come to Western to take classes, especially during the summer.

Chief McFadyen said that perhaps they could rewrite this to make accommodations.

Chief Alibertis noted that they wouldn't want to invest in people to just take a class without an affiliation.

Chief Leavell mentioned that the CARS numbers where less than 50% for release, so they changed their policy.

Chief Hahn said they could stipulate that if someone becomes affiliated with an agency, they have to do LODA after they complete a class, if Cornerstone isn't required. He added that they needed to separate EMT and firefighter.

Chief McFadyen stated that one underlying issue that was identified as problematic was people getting gear who don't have LODAs, and people not affiliated with stations but taking classes and joining departments. He said that for Firefighter I, you have to have LODA as a "gate check."

Chief Eggleston said that he does not recall problems with people joining but not getting LODA physicals.

Chief McFadyen said the other issue was the order in which people joined the waiting list, and he wanted them to come up with a good reason for the approach.

Chief Alibertis added that another issue was people not getting their physicals in time, although they've already registered for class.

Chief Hahn said that Chief Childress had mentioned having the LifeScan people come in and do the physicals when people are convened for class as a group, which would probably be a lot more cost effective.

Chief Eggleston noted that a challenge would be getting everyone there at the right time.

Chief McFadyen said that they need more capacity in training versus just addressing the order.

Chief Eggleston said that he would talk with Chief Childress about this and clarify.

IV. <u>New Business</u>

A. Child Abuse
B. Adult Abuse

Chief Puckett presented the Child Abuse Policy and Adult Abuse Policy. He noted that they were all mandated reporters in their roles, so this was coming mostly from Virginia Code and was not open for negotiation.

Chief Leavell noted that APS did not have the same link and portal that CPS does on the County's website.

Chief Eggleston said they would add the appropriate links.

Chief Alibertis asked if they had adopted the term of "District Chief," as he has not seen it used in any terminology.

Chief Puckett responded that they had included this as a definition adopted by FEMS for the Policy Manual.

Chief Alibertis recalled that they had left it as “Volunteer Agency Chief.”

Chief Puckett said that the District Chief was whoever was running shift that day as the duty officer.

Chief Leavell commented that they were the equivalent of a battalion chief.

Chief Puckett agreed and said that District Chief was defined as the “on-duty or on-call volunteer chief responsible for the management of station resources.” He added that it was not the agency head.

Chief Alibertis suggested that they add “designee,” but acknowledged that it would likely only apply to Western because not all stations have a duty chief. He said that the agency would need to define them if they were going to put this in the policy.

Chief Hahn said if the agency doesn’t have a duty chief or duty officer, they could contact the battalion chief.

Chief Leavell said that FEMS would also be reviewing this.

MOTION: Chief Hahn motioned that both policies be moved forwarded to the FEMS Board. Chief Leavell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

C. Flammable Gas Policy

Chief Puckett stated that they had already seen this policy and had tried to follow the same format as the other FOG policies. He said they added a new section that they would likely add to the other FOGs for consistency—Section 900.5, which addresses high-level incident objectives. He said that they also broke out inside gas leak and outside gas leak for CAD, as they are currently not broken out, and this parallels the Loudoun County policy.

Chief Puckett said that he would like to have a section at the end related to types of gas, propane and natural gas, and a little bit about their properties. He noted the alarm levels on their monitors.

Chief Alibertis stated that the levels for propane are 2.1–9.7 as flammable limits, but the policy is specific to 10%, and he wanted to make sure to define those.

Chief Puckett said the flammable limit is different than the lower explosive limit (LEL).

Chief Alibertis stated that there are times when his personnel would get there first and would be dispatched to it, so he would need to train people on this.

Chief Hahn also mentioned that CO was a gas to be concerned with.

Chief Hahn asked if anything would change when they get the new dispatch protocols, and he cited a recent gas leak in Woodbrook. He stated that he responded to the incident, and a woman greeted him outside and explained what had happened—which really involved him walking into the house and turning the burners off and taking a total of about seven minutes. He said that he wondered if the right questions were being asked, and he was concerned about just sticking another rig on the road just based on general information.

Chief Puckett responded that this was true of any call they ran, and fortunately the call was only seven minutes.

Chief Hahn said they could always address the policy later if they put it in place and it becomes a nuisance.

Chief Eggleston noted that this policy would add Hazmat 15 to the call.

Chief Puckett agreed and said that for an inside gas leak, it adds an additional engine because it was closer to a reduced structure box.

Chief McFadyen said it would be nice if they could delineate an appliance from a gas line.

Chief Hahn asked if they would get a hazmat response from the City if 151 is on a call and Hazmat 15 is not available.

Chief Puckett responded that he didn't think so, but they would need to talk to the City about that because it's not part of the current agreement.

Chief Hahn said that this would mean the policy is really based only on resource availability.

Chief Eggleston replied that this was not unusual, and special units are not usually made up and staffed.

Chief Hahn said he didn't disagree that it was good to have this, adding that Seminole runs a lot of gas leaks.

MOTION: Chief Alibertis motioned to move the Gas Leak Policy forwarded to the FEMS Board. Chief Hahn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

V. Next Meeting

A. Monday, July 8, 2024 at 1630 hours

The next FEMS Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 1630 hours in the Fire Rescue Conference Room.

Adjournment
At 17:02 hrs., the FEMS Executive Committee adjourned its meeting.

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE LOG

Date: June 3, 2024

VOTING MEMBERS (OR DESIGNATES)

Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS):

Chief Gary Dillon (Crozet):

Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail):

Chief Kostas Alibertis (WARS):

Chief Dan Eggleston (Albemarle County):

GUESTS & OTHERS

Guest/Other	*Organization/Agency/Affiliation*
Christina Davis	ACFR
~~Heather Chinness~~	~~ACFR~~
David Puckett	ACFR
Greg McFadyen	STUFD

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ACTION RECORD

AGENDA TITLE/ISSUE:	**AGENDA DATE:**	
Approval of Consent Agenda	June 3, 2024	
MOTION:	**MOTION MADE BY:**	**SECONDED BY:**
Approve Consent Agenda	Chief Kostas Alibertis	Chief Dennis Hahn
SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS:		
1.		

CALL OF THE QUESTION:	**Yes**	**No**	**Abstain**
Chief Dan Eggleston (ACFR)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Gary Dillon (Crozet Fire)	☐	☐	☐
Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle)	☒	☐	☐

I hereby attest that the foregoing is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Christina Davis — Clerk

June 3, 2024 — Date

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ACTION RECORD

AGENDA TITLE/ISSUE:	**AGENDA DATE:**	
Child Abuse and Adult Abuse Policies	June 3, 2024	
MOTION:	**MOTION MADE BY:**	**SECONDED BY:**
To move both policies to FEMS Board	Chief Dennis Hahn	Chief Virginia Leavell
SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS:		
1.		

CALL OF THE QUESTION:	**Yes**	**No**	**Abstain**
Chief Dan Eggleston (ACFR)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Gary Dillon (Crozet Fire)	☐	☐	☐
Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle)	☒	☐	☐

I hereby attest that the foregoing is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Christina Davis
Clerk

June 3, 2024
Date

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ACTION RECORD

AGENDA TITLE/ISSUE:	**AGENDA DATE:**	
Flammable Gas Policy	June 3, 2024	
MOTION:	**MOTION MADE BY:**	**SECONDED BY:**
To move to FEMS Board	Chief Kostas Alibertis	Chief Dennis Hahn
SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS:		
1.		

CALL OF THE QUESTION:	**Yes**	**No**	**Abstain**
Chief Dan Eggleston (ACFR)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Gary Dillon (Crozet Fire)	☐	☐	☐
Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail)	☒	☐	☐
Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle)	☒	☐	☐

I hereby attest that the foregoing is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Christina Davis — Clerk

June 3, 2024 — Date

Training Course Registration and Cancellation

600.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the registration process, number of required students, and cancellation of classes taught by the Albemarle County Fire Rescue Training & Professional Division. The intent of this policy is to insure equitable access to all system members.

600.2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the Albemarle County Fire Rescue System as defined in Albemarle County Code Chapter 6, Article I, Division 2, Section 6-102.

600.3 DEFINITIONS

Active Network –registration and course management platform of the Albemarle County Fire Rescue Training Division

Cornerstone On Demand (CSOD) – registration and course management platform of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP).

600.4 REGISTRATION

600.4.1 FIT FOR DUTY STATUS

System members who joined after July 1, 2013 must complete a LODA physical and provide proof of fit for duty status for ACFR delivered courses.

System members may sign up for any course in Active Network but will remain on the waitlist until their fit for duty status is confirmed.

600.4.2 REGISTRATION

Registration for all classes will be open to the public from the time classes are posted on Active Network until they close (3 weeks before class start date). The system will automatically accept the first two registrants in Active Network for any class.

Note: Automatic acceptance of the first two registrants for classes in Active Network is a system configuration issue that ACFR cannot change. Remaining registrants are placed on the waitlist until registration closes.

- Each department in the system is guaranteed 2 spots in each ACFR delivered courses. Students will be notified of their status within 1 week of registering in Active Network.
    - All other registrants will remain on the waitlist until registration closes 3 weeks before the class start date.
- When moved from the waitlist, registrants will receive an email confirmation from Active Network.

- After registration closes, registrants are moved from the waitlist in the following order:
    - Members will be admitted from the waitlist, in rotation, one member per station in the order they were received until the class is full.
    - If additional spots remain, out-of-locality registrants will be admitted in the order they were received.
- Students enrolled in a VDFP course will receive an additional email directing them to register for the course in CSOD.
    - This step must be completed prior to the registration close date listed in CSOD. Students will be notified of the CSOD registration close date when they are notified they can register in CSOD..
    - If a course pre-requisite is not listed in CSOD, students must register with an exception request, which alerts VDFP that prerequisites must be manually verified.
    - If the class has a test, students may be directed to register for that separately.

600.5 MINIMUM STUDENT NUMBERS AND CANCELLATION

Minimum required students:

- Firefighter I: 12
- Firefighter II: 12
- Emergency Medical Technician: 12
- Live Fire Training: 12
- DAO: 3
- Basic Life Support Continuing Education sessions run for East Rivanna, Earlysville, and System volunteers: 4
- All other classes: 6

Classes may be canceled in the following circumstances:

- A class with less than the minimum required number of students after the close of registration in Active Network will be canceled.
- Any student in a VDFP class who does not register in CSOD by the stated deadline will be removed from the roster.
    - The CSOD roster will take precedent over rosters generated from Active Network when deciding whether a VDFP class will be canceled.
- If student registrations in CSOD fall below the minimum within 4 days of the class start date, the instructor and Training Division Chief will have final authority to cancel the class.

600.6 CLASS REGISTRATION STATUS

Regular emails will be sent to Training Officers, the FEMS Board and others as applicable to provide current information regarding class registration status.

- Number of students enrolled and on the waitlist for each class
- Date registration closes for each class
- Student name and agency affiliation for each class
- Class start date(s)
- Date and time of registration
- Registration status
- Class specific requirements

Garden Apartment (G-APT) Guide

702.1 PURPOSE

This document provides arrival and on-scene procedures for Albemarle County Fire Rescue units operating at incidents involving fires in garden-type apartments.

702.2 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all members of the Albemarle County Coordinated Fire and Rescue System as defined in Albemarle County Code Chapter 6, Article I, Division 2, Section 6-102.

702.3 OVERVIEW

Garden apartments are a style of multi-family dwelling. Typically, garden apartments consist of multiple buildings that may vary in height from two to four stories and contain between two to six housing units per floor. The characteristic setting for garden apartment complexes involves the presence of courtyards, large grassy areas, playgrounds, and, occasionally, pool structures. Additionally, garden apartments will present with a center stairwell, either open or closed, as opposed to apartments constructed with center-fed hallways (dorm-style or mid-rise). Examples of common garden apartment layouts are below:

For 2021, 6% of fires reported in the USA occurred in apartments or other multifamily housing. Those fires resulted in 11% (400) of civilian deaths and 21% (3,100) of civilian injuries.

Garden apartments can be found throughout the hydranted area of the County.

Garden apartments are typically served by several utilities: water, sewer, gas, electric, and communications systems. These utilities are often congregated in one location for each building.

The Effective Response Force (ERF) for garden apartment fires should be 18 based on a hydranted area response.

702.4 INCIDENT OBJECTIVES

The following incident objectives serve as an initial incident action plan (IAP) for fires involving garden-style apartments. However, it is essential that the Incident Command continuously evaluate the scene and modify the IAP based on the unique circumstances of the incident. Although the objectives are listed in sequential order, it may be appropriate to prioritize lower-priority objectives if achieving them will expedite incident stabilization. Additionally, if sufficient resources are available, objectives may be accomplished simultaneously.

Ultimately, fires in garden-style apartments pose a high-life hazard and should generally be addressed within the strategic mode of Rescue. The greatest factor that will drive the tactical decision-making to best effect the strategy of rescue are the location and extent of the fire.

(a) Life Safety / Rescue / Civilian Protection

(b) Exposure Protection / Fire Attack / Confinement

(c) Search

(d) Water Supply

(e) Extinguishment

(f) Overhaul / Ventilation / Salvage

702.5 DISPATCH PLAN

(4) Engines, (1) Truck, (1) Transport Unit, (1) Chief Officer (Minimum ERF 18 Personnel)

702.6 DISPATCH ASSIGNMENTS

702.6.1 1ST ENGINE

Expected Actions:

- Determine and announce water supply plan. Generally, 1st arriving engines should lay in from a hydrant to the scene.
- Size-up and initial command.
- Determine and announce Mode of Operation.
- Place 1st line in service.

Tactical Considerations:

All garden-style apartments are within the hydranted area of Albemarle County, and the water supply plan should follow the anticipated deployment for the hydranted area. Generally, the 1st engine should lay in from the hydrant to the fire scene. If a hydrant is within 100' of the fire scene the company officer may elect to have the DPO hand jack the LDH and hydrant assist valve to the hydrant where the 2nd engine will complete the connection. If a hydrant is within 50' then the 1st engine may make an independent hydrant connection. Occasionally, exigent circumstances such as a known rescue or the need for immediate VEIS may negate the 1st engine from laying in. In these situations, the water supply plan must be passed to the next arriving engine(s).

The 1st engine shall position to allow the 1st truck primary access to the front of the involved structure by pulling past or stopping short. Additionally, positioning shall consider hose deployment, and the engine should be positioned to be able to reach the most remote location within the building.

The size-up is of paramount importance and should be used to determine layout, exposures, fire location, fire growth, flow paths, and victims. The company officer should attempt to view multiple sides of the structure as the apparatus approaches the scene and take note of fire location, extent of smoke, and obvious rescues. If all sides of the structure are not able to be viewed prior to initiating actions on scene the company officer should make that announcement and assign the task to a later arriving company. Generally, a view or report of all sides of the structure should be obtained prior to interior operations. In situations where immediate action is needed to mitigate an immediate life hazard, the initial IC shall transmit the need to bypass the visualization of all sides. It is imperative that the company officer identify the lowest floor of fire involvement. Every effort should be made to announce the unit number of the involved apartment(s) (example: Apartment 201 or Unit F). The size-up should include all aspects of the initial and follow-up reports as listed in Incident Command Procedure.

The rapid application of water is the primary goal of the first arriving engine. Crews should work to ensure this takes place, often simultaneously with the officer's size-up. The primary purpose of the first line should be to:

- Protect occupants.
- Protect public stairwells.
- Confinement.
- Extinguishment.

The first line should generally push towards the seat of the fire and will typically be the 1 ¾" preconnected line allowing for the needed speed, mobility, and fire flow. Garden-style apartments offer challenges not faced in single-family dwellings. Water should be applied to any fire or super-heated areas as soon as possible and should generally push from a safer area towards the fire. The location of the line should consider the ease of deployment and attack, the protection of occupants, and the protection of the public stairwell.

Companies should be prepared for alternate hose deployment and stretch methods compared to those typically encountered at SFDs and THs. Garden Apartment fires may require the advancement of the preconnected 300', the make up of a leader line, well stretches, ladder advancement, rope hoist options, and/or standpipes as applicable. Hose deployment routes may be altered as well and may include entering the involved apartment from the common stairwell, entering through a ground-level patio, entering via a ladder to a balcony, entering through a rear entrance of the building, entering through an adjoining apartment, or traversing the building or adjoining building.

As time and actions permit, the operator should look to deploy ladders to the building with an emphasis on placement to the fire room.

702.6.2 2ND ENGINE
Expected Actions:

- Water Supply:
  - Complete water supply for 1st engine.
  - If the 1st engine forwent laying in and does not have its own water supply the 2nd engine shall assume the water supply responsibility of the 1st engine.
- Perform primary search and rescue in coordination with fire attack (1st engine) in absence of a truck.
- Deploy a second line to assist fire attack or protect public stairs in presence of a truck.

Tactical Considerations:

Generally, the 2nd engine should complete the water supply (make the hydrant connection) for the 1st engine. If the 1st engine forwent laying in and does not have its own water supply the 2nd engine shall assume the water supply responsibility of the 1st engine by laying in and then sending its water to the 1st engine. The 3rd engine will assume the role at the hydrant. In this case, radio announcements must be made, and all responding apparatus must be aware of the altered water supply plan.

There will be differences in operations based on the arrival and presence of a truck.

Offensive	
Prior to Truck	After Truck
Establish IRIT until relieved of the responsibility by the next arriving engine company. Once relieved, assume the role of search.	Establish IRIT until relieved of the responsibility by the next arriving engine company. Once relieved, deploy a second hose to assist in fire attack and protect the public stairwell.

Rescue	
Prior to Truck	After Truck
Assist the 1st engine with rescue efforts or assume a complimentary role such as fire attack. The assumed role should be the complement to the role of the 1st engine, either search or fire attack, unless immediate assistance is required by the 1st engine.	Deploy a second hose to assist in fire attack and/or protect the public stairwell.

Search priorities and efforts shall focus first on any known area of victim location or refuge. Efforts shall then focus on completing the search within the fire apartment, adjacent apartments, the apartment(s) above the fire, and remaining floors/apartments.

Support for the primary search should include ladders to upper story windows and hose lines engaged in fire attack.

702.6.3 3RD ENGINE

Expected Actions:

- Water Supply:
  - Initiate secondary water supply.
  - In the event the 1st engine forwent laying in and did not assume their own water the 3rd engine shall assume the water supply responsibility of the 2nd engine.
- Charlie side or opposite side report.
- Deploy the line above the fire if the second attack line or public stairwell protection line is already deployed.

Tactical Considerations:

Generally, the 3rd engine should look to establish a secondary water supply and position themselves to be prepared to either supply the truck during elevated master stream operations or support the fire attack. Essentially, in the absence of a need to supply a truck, the 3rd engine acts as a back-up water supply for the fire attack. If the 1st engine forwent laying in and does not have its own water supply the 3rd engine shall assume the water supply responsibility of the 2nd engine by completing the water supply (connecting to the hydrant) for the 2nd engine.

The 3rd engine should provide a report to the IC indicating conditions on the side of the structure opposite of the first line and of primary taskings. This report should include many of the same items found in the initial size-up and follow-up reports.

If the 2nd engine has already deployed a line to support the fire attack and protect the public stairwell the 3rd engine should deploy a line to the floor above the fire, typically with a 1 ¾" line. The line should be of sufficient length to reach the area above the fire and into the attic/cockloft space. This line is utilized to support search efforts above the fire and to stop/limit any vertical fire spread.

If the 2nd engine is engaged in search activities in the absence of a truck and the second line to support fire attack and provide for the protection of the public stairwell has not been deployed, then the 3rd engine should deploy the line to support fire attack and protect the stairs.

702.6.4 4TH ENGINE

Expected Actions:

- Water Supply
  - Complete the hydrant connection for the 3rd engine.
- RIT
- If the line above the fire has not yet been deployed due to alternate scene taskings the 4th engine should deploy the line above the fire.

Tactical Considerations:

The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall perform proactive measures to increase the safety of crews operating in the IDLH and on the fireground. These measures include the preparation of the RIT pack and the readiness of forcible entry and rescue equipment. Additionally, this may include the deployment of ladders for rescue/escape, the preparation of the search tag line, and/or the deployment of a dedicated hose line. Efforts should be made to soften the structure without creating additional flow paths (removing window bars).

If the line above the fire has yet to be deployed due to alternate scene taskings, the 4th engine should deploy the line above the fire. This line is utilized to support search efforts above the fire and to stop/limit any vertical fire spread.

702.6.5 5TH ENGINE

Expected Actions:

- The 5th engine will respond in the absence of an available truck. The 5th engine should perform a walk-around and provide the IC with an update and be prepared to fulfill duties typically assigned to the truck.

Tactical Considerations:

The 5th engine should position out of the way of the scene. Generally, the crew should abandon the apparatus and proceed to the scene. Upon arrival at the scene a walk-around should be performed with a status update provided to the IC. The crew should then be prepared to perform duties normally assigned to the truck that are not yet completed. Ladders shall be placed to the fire building with focus on areas directly involved in fire, where crews are operating, and areas of potential civilian/victim refuge. Additionally, if utilities have not been fully controlled, the 5th engine shall work to ensure all utilities are controlled. As appropriate and necessary, under the guidance of the IC, ventilation shall be performed. The 5th engine may also be deployed to bolster the efforts of fire attack and/or search.

702.6.6 TRUCK

Expected Actions:

- Position on side Alpha or the side of the structure with fire showing.
- When arriving first, perform size-up, establish command, as well as determine and announce mode of operation.
- Prepare for immediate VEIS/rescue(s) when appropriate.
- Perform forced entry.
- Initiate primary search and rescue if arriving prior to the second engine or if arriving prior to the initiation of the task; this is inclusive of searching for fire. If arriving after the initiation of search and no immediate assistance is needed, initiate the primary search on the floor above.
- Perform ventilation in coordination with fire attack and the IC.

- Ladder the structure.
- Control utilities and prepare for salvage and overhaul.

Tactical Considerations:

The role of the truck company is very important to the success of fire ground operations and personnel assigned to the truck must be able to adapt based on needs and at the direction of the IC. In the absence of a truck company, all tasks must still be completed and will generally fall to the 5th engine. Additionally, if staffing allows, the truck crew should be prepared to split with the primary truck crew handling inside taskings and the x-ray crew handling exterior taskings.

The truck should position in the most strategic location with anticipation towards the rapid deployment of ladders, access to the roof, entry into the structure, and the ability to defend firewalls and unburned sections of the structure.

- Generally, the truck should position on the side of the building with fire showing, depending on access. In the absence of visible fire, the truck should position on side Alpha.
- The turntable should generally be placed towards most of the exposures. This will facilitate the best placement of the aerial to windows and allow the aerial to be raised to the roof or to adjoining exposures.
- During large volume fire incidents that may require the use of an elevated stream, the turntable of the first truck should be in front of the most threatened exposure. Additional trucks that may arrive should position their turntable(s) at the next most severely threatened exposure. If possible, all turntables should be able to rotate back to the originally involved unit to assist with completion of extinguishment.
    - During large volume fire incidents, the truck should utilize their elevated stream to defend the firewall(s) of the involved structure. This is accomplished by applying heavy caliber streams to the side of the firewall to prevent horizontal spread of fire to the attached exposure.

Nothing should delay the efforts of the primary search or VEIS if conditions warrant. The interior crew from the truck should be prepared to immediately perform forced entry followed by search in the fire apartment. If the search of the fire apartment is already occurring priority should be given to immediately adjacent units followed by the floor above.

The x-ray crew should be prepared to immediately deploy ladders to the structure. The focus of ladders should go from areas of fire/danger/work towards adjacent areas. The crew should then be prepared for ventilation. Ventilation shall be coordinated with fire attack and the IC. Ventilation shall give special consideration to potential flow paths and unnecessary flow paths shall be controlled. Lastly, utilities should be controlled. If the elevated ladder is necessary early in the incident, the operator shall focus on deploying the ladder while the remaining member of the x-ray crew initiates the deployment of ground ladders and works on outside ventilation work.

In the absence of an x-ray crew the truck company will need to prioritize taskings. Typically, the crew from the truck will need to be committed to search and rescue while the operator of the

truck commits themselves to ladders and outside ventilation work. The truck operator will need to prioritize elevated access versus ground ladders and ventilation with the IC.

702.6.7 TRANSPORT UNITS

Expected Actions:

- Position for rapid egress.
- Provide treatment for initial patients.
- Set up and prepare for rehab.
- Support fire ground operations at the direction of the IC.
- When first arriving, perform size-up, establish command, and determine and announce mode of operation.

Tactical Considerations:

There are multiple types of transport units that operate within Albemarle County. There are differences between EMS capability (BLS versus ALS) and differences between suppression capability. The IC shall consider the capabilities of the transport unit assigned to the incident and make any adjustments or additions that may be deemed necessary.

In general, the transport unit shall be responsible for maintaining a position that allows for rapid egress from the scene with focus placed on not becoming trapped due to apparatus and hose deployment. The transport unit shall be responsible for the treatment of initial patients. In the absence of initial patients, the transport unit shall prepare for and set up rehab.

If the transport unit is suppression capable and the arrival order warrants, the transport unit may be utilized in a suppression role such as search. If the transport unit is used in a suppression role a second transport unit shall be added.

702.6.8 CHIEF OFFICERS

Expected Actions:

- 1st Chief Officer
  - Position with a view of the incident with attention to preferred apparatus placement.
  - Receive CAN from IC.
  - Size-up and assume role of IC.
  - Reaffirm or update the IAP.
- Subsequent Chief Officers
  - Meet with IC.
  - Be prepared to operate any of multiple roles:
    - Division/Tactical Supervisor

- Safety Officer
- Accountability Officer

Tactical Considerations:

The standard plan of action for fires in garden-style apartments shall be to address them according to the guidelines contained herein. However, it is understood that situations involving fire are dynamic and may require actions that are outside of standard practice. In those instances, all changes must be announced by the IC.

The goal of the IC should be to continue and/or update the appropriate IAP for the incident. The IAP shall be based on a thorough and continuous size-up, recognition of who and what may be in danger, attention to safety considerations, and resource needs. The anticipated need for additional resources should be requested early.

Objectives at fires shall be set within the following areas: Rescue, Exposure, Confinement, Extinguishment, Ventilation, and Salvage.

Garden-style apartment fires present oversite and management challenges not typically encountered by chief officers operating at single family dwelling fires. For this reason, later arriving chief officers should be prepared to operate within an assigned tactical supervision role such as a Division Supervisor. Chief officers assigned to this role must anticipate managing all aspects of suppression, search/rescue, ventilation, salvage, and overhaul for the assigned area. Chief Officers should refer to the *Tactical Supervisors Procedure* for additional information and best practices.

702.7 CONSTRUCTION STYLES

There are three distinct building periods that define the characteristics associated with garden-style apartment complexes. Each period is present within the region with the latter two periods being more common within Albemarle County and all three periods being represented within the immediate mutual aid area. These three periods include garden apartments built in the 1940's and 1950's, those built in the 1960's and into the early 1980's, and those built from the mid 1980's to present day.

The construction type, style, features, and fire protection systems associated with garden apartments directly correlate to the year in which they were constructed. Throughout the 1940's and the 1950's, garden apartments were typically constructed with ordinary construction and masonry walls. In the 1960's into the early 1980's buildings were mostly wood-frame construction with masonry veneer walls and a masonry/concrete stairwell. From the mid 1980's through the present day the construction of garden apartments has primarily been punctuated almost exclusively by lightweight wood-frame construction containing wood stairwells and some form of combustible materials for siding. Apartment construction within Albemarle County did not take off until the mid to late 1960's. It is important to note though, that current past construction practices may incorporate all the previously mentioned characteristics.

The number of units on each floor depends upon the layout of the structure. The buildings within a garden apartment complex may be detached from one another or they may be attached, which can limit access to the rear of the building. Often, these structures are set back from the primary address street and set within a complex array of parking lots.

The terrain surrounding the garden apartment complex will often create differences in floor levels above ground from front to rear and side to side.

Roof design of garden apartment complexes varies greatly. Most newer complexes are constructed with large cross gables and dormers. Older complexes may include multiple roof design features inclusive of both gable and flat construction.

The distribution of laundry facilities, storage areas, utility rooms, and trash rooms varies based on the complex and the year of construction. Newer complexes often house laundry rooms, utility rooms, and storage areas within each individual apartment. However, older complexes may house all these areas on the lower level of the building along with occupied apartments. Newer complexes may contain trash chutes that are accessed from each level of the structure and lead to a common trash room on the lowest level. Older complexes may be built to include a basement that may house many of the utility style rooms whereas most newer complexes are built on a slab foundation, and they lack traditional basement storage and laundry rooms.

702.7.1 1940'S - 1950'S

Albemarle County does not have many structures that fall within this design/construction characteristic. However, the City of Charlottesville, a primary mutual and automatic aid partner, does. Additionally, there may be several design/construction characteristics utilized within this period that are present in later garden apartment structures and personnel should be knowledgeable of these characteristics.

Garden apartments constructed during this period will typically not exceed four stories and are constructed with ordinary construction.

Roof construction during this period typically entailed a flat or a pitched roof built with conventional construction methods using dimensional lumber rather than lightweight truss construction. Flat roof construction typically resulted in the beams being run from the front to the rear of the building without the presence of parapets at the firewall separations. Personnel should pay particular attention to the direction of the beams and understand the resultant void space. The beams will generally limit lateral fire spread; however, fire spread from the front to the rear will be considerable and many of these structures lack firewall separation between the roof beams and the ceiling of the occupancy. In these cases, void space fires will progress rapidly. The void space in pitched roof construction is referred to as the attic whereas the void space in flat roof construction is referred to as the cockloft.

Occasionally, there may be pitched roof construction over a flat roof. Many times, this is done because the flat roof is in disrepair, and it is more economical to install a trussed roof design over the flat roof. In this construction practice, lightweight trusses are installed front to rear on top of

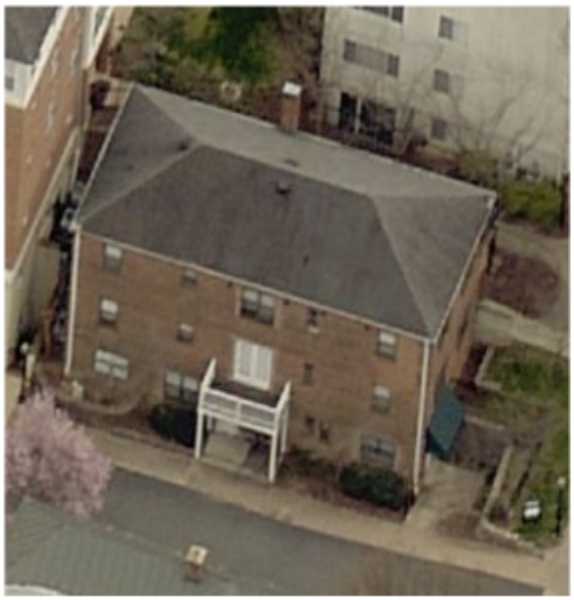
the load bearing walls and covered in a standard lightweight format. Personnel should pay special consideration to occupancy rehab practices within their area as this rehab practice will greatly limit the effectiveness of vertical ventilation. Additionally, the effectiveness of hooking the ceiling to access the cockloft will have a very limited impact on the ability to access a fire located under the pitched roof. Moreover, HVAC units may be placed within the newly created void space on top of the older flat roof, under the new gable roof. Personnel should pay attention to differences in siding at the gable ends of a structure that may indicate the addition of a lightweight gable roof over a deteriorating flat roof.

The exterior walls of these structures are typically brick. Normally the front and rear wall are load bearing except in the case of a hip roof where all four walls are load bearing.

These apartment structures are constructed with masonry bearing walls with wood floors and roof components. Typically, the floors are wooden with dimensional wood beams for joists. These joists are covered with 1" x 3" plank board subfloor and a tongue-and-groove hardwood floor. Some of these structures may have concrete and concrete floors. Any concrete floors found within this period of construction should only be viewed as something to minimize upward extension; concrete floors in these structures do not create fire resistive or non-combustible construction.

Personnel should be cognizant of the insulation utilized in these structures. The insulation may be rolled fiberglass, rock wool, blown-in cellulose, or shredded and treated newspaper. Insulation may be found in attics, exterior walls, and occasionally in interior walls. It is important to understand that blown-in insulation and shredded newspaper insulation have the potential to add to fire spread and greatly increase the risk of a smoldering rekindle hazard. Personnel should judiciously perform overhaul operations in the presence of insulation that is not rolled fiberglass.

Firewalls may be present in these structures. However, their presence and location will depend on the timeframe of when the building was constructed and what building code was in effect at the time of construction. The firewalls, if even present, may be located between each address, every other address, or only between the living spaces on occupied floors. Additionally, any firewalls present may or may not extend into the attic or basement.



702.7.2 1960'S - EARLY 1980'S

The boom for apartment construction within Albemarle County occurred during this period. This period of construction combines aspects of ordinary construction with lightweight construction practices. This period of construction was also transitional for the construction industry.

Garden apartments built in the early to mid-1960's were primarily ordinary construction with masonry bearing walls, wood floors, and wood roofs. These were very similar to earlier garden apartments; however, plywood began to be used for floors rather than dimensional decking and roof truss assemblies were used in place of the ridge pole and joist roofing. In these buildings the inner block wall is typically the load bearing wall while the outer brick wall is usually veneer.

During the late 1960's and early 1970's construction practices switched, and most garden apartments were constructed using wood framing. The bearing walls, floors, and roof are all wood. The platform method was the most common form of wood frame construction. During this period the floor joists are still typically dimensional lumber. Exterior walls during this period are wood framed with brick veneer.

Many buildings during this period are of blended construction type. The foundation, stairwell, and walls that support the heavy concrete balconies and HVAC units are typically load-bearing brick and block. However, the remaining non-bearing walls are veneer brick.

By the mid to late 1970's, lightweight construction became the standard. Dimensional lumber floor joists were replaced with lightweight truss joists.

The insulation practices utilized during this period include rolled fiberglass, rock wool, or blown-in cellulose. It is important for firefighters to note the presence of blown-in cellulose insulation as it creates a significant smoldering rekindle hazard.

Firewalls during this period are variable and depend on the exact time of construction and the building code in effect at the time. Firewalls may be:

- Located between each address.
- Located between every other address.
- Nonexistent.
- Between the living spaces of occupied floors only and failing to extend into the attic and/or basement.
- Between each apartment and over each apartment in the attic.
- May stop at the bearing wall leaving the soffit overhand unprotected.

Firewalls may be constructed in two ways, either masonry or multi-layered gypsum board. Solid masonry firewalls are often identifiable from the exterior of a building and extend as a parapet through the roof. It is important to note though, that many firewalls from this era are penetrated to allow for the running of utilities.

702.7.3 MID 1980'S - PRESENT

When personnel think about the garden-style apartment they likely think of those built during this time. There are many examples of complexes in Albemarle County that fit this example.

Garden apartments built during this period are almost exclusively built utilizing lightweight construction techniques. This means that the buildings are almost completely wood framed with truss roofs and floor systems.

Roof construction during this period is commonly gable and may contain multiple pitches, hips, and valleys. A common practice during this period relating to roof construction is the inclusion of cathedral ceilings on the upper floors. These roofs are lightweight construction with 2" x 4" trussed supports with gusset plate or glue attachment joints. The sheathing of these roofs consists of plywood with tarpaper and shingles. The trusses typically run from front to rear. It is important to note the large void space created with trussed roof systems and the potential for rapid fire spread throughout the attic. Additionally, roofs constructed during this period are often adorned with false dormers. These false dormers create concentrated loads on the roof area and can accelerate collapse. These false dormers can also challenge firefighters who may view them as a method of ingress/egress to/from living space.

The exterior walls during this period are all wood frame and covered with vinyl, aluminum, wood, brick veneer, or a concrete board. It is important to note the presence of any combustible siding material on the structures as it will increase the risk and probability of vertical fire spread and exposure to the soffit and attic space.

Insulation found in structures during this period includes rolled fiberglass, rock wool, blown-in cellulose, and compressed foam. As mentioned earlier, blown-in cellulose poses a real risk for smoldering rekindle and overhaul practices must be complete and expansive. Although there are newer types of compressed foam insulation that may not pose the same hazard, many types of compressed foam are derived from petroleum. This means that wherever compressed foam is used it is likely to increase the fire load and extension probability for that area.

Personnel should be aware that the practice of utilizing masonry firewalls is not as common during this period. Instead, builders typically utilize gypsum board for the firewalls and there is a real risk of penetrations through the firewall for anything from utilities, repairs, and/or damage.

Occasionally, newer garden apartments are being built with zero clearance fireplace systems. The venting process for these fireplaces includes venting into a double or triple lined metal pipe into a common shaft system to the roofline or the use of a shorter vertical pipe directly to the closest exterior wall. The exhaust stacks are often decoratively boxed to match the construction of the structure, often with combustible materials.

Many newer garden apartments include either lower-level parking garages (enclosed or open) or individual, enclosed garages. These garages are typically on the terrace level and may or may not offer direct entry into a common stairwell or private apartment. It is important to note that a vehicle or contents fire in one of these garages poses a real threat to the occupants of the apartment and should be aggressively managed.

Garden apartments from this period often have monitored alarm systems although some are still operating with local alarms. The alarm systems in use may activate alarms within one building or

multiple adjacent buildings. Some buildings may only have monitored alarms installed in common areas while individual apartments operate off local alarm systems.

Newer garden apartments may be equipped with 13R sprinkler systems. These systems are wet systems that are fed from the domestic supply with no fire pump. 13R systems are typically run using residential piping methods, typically some equivalent of PVC or PEX. This makes these systems susceptible to failure during exposure to heat or flame. These systems may be equipped with a single inlet fire department connection (FDC). These FDCs are typically only 1 ½". The attic spaces of these buildings may or may not be equipped with upright sprinkler heads.