

VENTILATION

PURPOSE:

- To remove super heated gasses and products of combustion while increasing the safety of a personnel in the structure

GUIDELINE:

- Ventilation will be closely coordinated with suppression activities.
- All ventilation efforts should be initiated as soon as possible and appropriate. If horizontal ventilation involving windows is called for, every effort shall be made to open the window, rather than breaking them, as long as this operation does not jeopardize or harm the operation in any way. Top sections of the window should be opened to obtain the maximum effect. Screens, blinds and curtains should also be removed to provide a smooth flow of air
- If ventilation is completed by breaking the window the entire window shall be cleaned out.
- Positive Pressure Ventilation will not be started until the fire attack is underway and is the primary means of ventilation along with window removal.
 - Ensure that entire opening is clear of obstructions
 - Ensure air cone fills as much of the opening as possible
- When Vertical Ventilation is Required
 - Cuts should provide a minimum of a 4'x 4' hole.
 - During roof operations a minimum of 2 Firefighters in full protective clothing including SCBA should be used.
 - Ground and Roof Ladders should be in Place
 - Saws should be started on the ground and then shut down before climbing to the roof. Saws should not be carried while running.
- If the structure has a truss roof and there is fire in the attic space no roof operations should be conducted until the fire is controlled.
- Only horizontal and positive pressure ventilation should be used on mobile homes, never vertical ventilation until structural integrity can be confirmed.