

## PURPOSE

To establish safe and effective operating procedures for fighting structure fires during high-wind conditions.

## PROCEDURE

### 1. Throughout the work shift:

- A. All personnel shall stay informed and be aware of officially issued high wind related watches, advisories and warnings.

### 2. Risk assessment on arrival:

- A. Incident Commander shall include current wind conditions (speed and direction) when conducting a 360 size-up @ structure fires.

- B. Incident Commander shall use exterior and interior indicators when determining if dangerous wind-driven structure fire conditions exist, such as:

- a) Pulsing fire/smoke from upwind windows
- b) Slamming interior and exterior doors
- c) "Blowtorch" type horizontal fire behavior

- C. Incident Commander shall consider an early defensive attack strategy in wind-driven conditions if:

- a) Several rooms are involved in fire
- b) All occupants are out, or the rescue possibility is low
- c) Structural integrity is compromised and/or active fire in the attic
- d) Wind flow paths cannot quickly be controlled (doors and windows)

### 3. Alternate Fireground Tactics:

- A. Use the ISO as an external wind "spotter"
- B. Use exterior "transitional" fire streams prior to interior fire attack
- C. Control wind flow path openings by closing doors, covering windows and other improvised means.
- D. Do not use aerial or ground ladders in winds above 30mph.
- E. Use caution on the roof when making coordinated ventilation/fire attack.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

- Wind-driven structure fires can create instantly-changing and lethal interior conditions with very little warning. A comprehensive initial “risk vs. benefit” assessment along with an on-going evaluation of dynamic hazards can significantly reduced the dangers presented to personnel working on the fireground.