



Thanks to Training Officer John Shafer, Greencastle Fire Department for this submission.

Chimney Fires

Chimney Fires Tactics:

There are two common causes of chimney-related fires:

1. Ignition of residue in the flue.
2. Ignition of combustible materials in proximity to the chimney or heating device.



As with any incident there is many different tactics that can be used to control the incident, so there is no set tactic that must be used on every incident. The outline below is a suggested step-by-step description for fires in the chimney itself, ignition of materials in the proximity of the chimney can be handled as any normal structure fire. (Check your SOG's)

1. Upon arrival conduct Size-up
2. Establish Command
3. Request additional resources if needed
4. Conduct interior size-up of the fireplace
5. Advance hoselines if needed
6. If interior environment is smoke filled, monitor the air for co levels 35ppm or higher must don SCBA
7. Stop the flow of oxygen to the flue. (this can be as simple as closing the units door(s), and closing any air intakes)
8. Spread a salvage cover in front of the stove or fireplace
9. Establish horizontal ventilation (consider using PPV fan if needed)
10. Extinguish the fire (consider the following methods)
 - **Water** i.e. water extinguisher or hoselines
Note: Some people don't advocate using water because of the fear that water will rapidly cool the flue and cause it to fracture
 - **Dry chemical extinguisher**
 - **Chimflex flares (or other brand)**
11. Remove contents of heating device outside if needed
12. Check for extension (using Thermal Imaging Camera, heat gun, also be looking for discolorations of surface materials, smoke coming from cracks, outlets, light fixtures, or roof coverings)
13. Overhaul if needed
14. Advise occupant to have chimney inspected by a certified chimney inspector before using it again
15. Terminate your incident (**STAY SAFE**)

