



# Town of Clayton Fire Department Operations



## **Safety**

During any operation, personnel safety is our #1 objective. Firefighting is an inherently dangerous job however CFD personnel are trained with the most current tactics and are equipped with specialized personal protective equipment that protects them in hazardous atmospheres and conditions. In order to protect the personnel on the scene that are not in the hazardous environments, we set up buffer zones when operating on or near streets and/or highways. We have a very detailed Highway Safety Program that aids us to ensure our personnel can go home to be with their families after serving the ones in need. In the event you are ever caught in a “traffic jam” due to an incident please realize we are not blocking traffic to delay you but are blocking traffic to protect the personnel and patients on the scene. If you are ever directed by a fire department representative in traffic, please adhere to their commands so we can perform our duties without the risk of causing more injuries on the scene. Also, State of NC has a Move Over law that states motorists should move over one lane when there is any emergency services unit (Fire, Police, EMS, etc) and/or DOT worker performing duties by the roadside. If the motorist can not move over, he/she should slow and prepare to stop. On all other incidents, we set up various hazard zones to protect us and the public. Even if you don't feel you are near the “dangerous area” you may be asked to move back or asked not to enter due to hazards you are probably not aware of such as our handlines (fire hose) operating at high pressures, accountability purposes, or scene security.

## **Structure Fires**

The Town of Clayton Fire Department responds to structure fires with 3 Engine Companies, 1 Heavy Rescue / Truck Company, and Chief Officer(s). CFD also gets automatic aid from other fire departments, depending on the area, to assist with water supply and/or manpower. Structure fires pose numerous hazards to ones involved and responding personnel. When CFD arrives on the scene, numerous tasks are being done. First of all, the first arriving officer is going to contact the occupants and find out if everyone is outside or not. If all occupants are out, CFD personnel will begin fire attack and if occupants are not out or if it is unknown, CFD personnel will begin search and rescue. Even when we are told all occupants are out, searches are still conducted throughout the structure to check for people and fire extension. Another important task conducted on fire scenes is water supply. If you are in an area that has hydrants, an Engine Company will connect to a hydrant and use the water supply from the hydrant to supply all hoses. If you are in an area without hydrants, the first in Engine Company has 1,000 gallons of water to use while water supply is being set up using other Pumper/Tankers and/or dump tanks. During fire attack, CFD has a team of 2 or more firefighters designated at RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) to deploy in the event an interior firefighter goes down, gets lost, or runs low on air. Interior personnel are limited to 15 minutes of fire attack operations due to limited air supply in their air packs (30 minute bottle-which rarely lasts the bottle design when exerting a lot of work). During and after fire attack CFD personnel will assist in salvaging belongings and overhaul the area to ensure the fire has been extinguished. All fires are investigated by the Clayton Fire Marshal and/or County Fire Marshal with the assistance of law enforcement agencies.



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## ***CAN WE FIND YOU???***

In the event of a fire, medical, or other emergency, we cannot find you without your street address being visible from the street or highway. Minimum height of numbers should be not less than 3 inches, be displayed in numeric form *not script*, and the color should contrast from background which numbers are placed on.

## **Fire Alarms**

The Town of Clayton Fire Department responds to fire alarms which are received through Johnston County Communications 9-1-1 Center in two ways. 1-Alarm system sends alarm to alarm company, alarm company contacts Johnston County Communications, CFD is dispatched by 9-1-1 Center. 2-Person hears their fire alarm/smoke detectors activate and they call 9-1-1 and CFD is dispatched. On initial dispatch, CFD responds with an assignment of 2 Engine Companies, and at least 1 Chief Officer. Upon arrival, if it is found to be a false activation or not a working fire, all but 1 apparatus clears the call and returns to their respective station/duties. So, if you ever see a fire truck going down the highway with lights and siren and suddenly they cut them off, either they were cancelled enroute or told to reduce their response to normal traffic. Also, if an alarm system is set off, and the occupant relays to the alarm company that there is no fire, CFD still responds to the scene to ensure there is no fire or that a small fire did not extend into the walls, ensure there are no injuries, to ensure the alarm system is working properly, and to gather information for our fire report. Fire alarms are categorized as residential or commercial. Below are some Do's and Don'ts for both.

### Residential Fire Alarms

**DO-** Ensure that correct information is given and updated as needed to the alarm company. This includes address and key holder contact information

**DO-** Evacuate the structure and contact 9-1-1 from neighbor's house or cell phone

**DO NOT-** Reset the alarm panel (CFD personnel need to see what set the system off and even if alarm panel has a recall feature, time will be wasted to pull the information up)

**DO NOT-** Re-enter the structure until cleared by Fire Department Command (Officer in Charge)

### Commercial Fire Alarms

**DO-** Ensure that correct information is given and updated as needed to the alarm company. This includes address and key holder contact information. Key holder information can also be put in the Knox™ box (lock box which only FD has access to)

**DO-** Evacuate the structure and have available accountability of ones that were inside. Have assigned locations for personnel to report to in the even of a fire alarm and select someone to be "in charge" of each group.

**DO NOT-** Silence the fire alarm (if people are still inside and they hear the alarm silenced they may think everything is OK and remain inside. The alarms are made loud and obnoxious for a reason...to get your attention and make you get out!!)

**DO NOT-** Reset the alarm panel (CFD personnel need to see what set the system off and even if alarm panel has a recall feature, time will be wasted to pull the information up)

**DO NOT-** Re-enter the structure until cleared by Fire Department Command (Officer in Charge)

CFD personnel will enter the structure and investigate the cause of what set off the fire alarm.



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## Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that is DEADLY. It is a by-product of a fuel burning process. It can cause symptoms that mimic the flu, unconsciousness, and even death. Many home appliances are capable of producing Carbon Monoxide when a faulty or unusual condition exists. Since the source may be transient in nature, the source may not always be detectable. Carbon Monoxide detectors are available at local stores and is recommended to maintain them as you would a smoke detector (change batteries every 6 months-when time changes). In the event of a CO detector activation and/or sudden onset of any of the above symptoms, our recommendation is that you leave your building immediately, leaving **ALL** windows and doors **CLOSED**, and call 9-1-1 from a safe place (neighbors, cell phone, etc). By leaving windows and doors closed, this allows CFD personnel to detect specific levels in an area. CFD personnel will enter the structure wearing full personal protective equipment, breathing air from a self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and use a multi-gas monitor to take readings throughout. CO levels of interest are shown below.

**9 ppm (parts per million)** – Not considered elevated level however this does not mean that higher levels did not exist prior to our arrival nor that higher levels will not accumulate after our departure. Check your CO detector per manufacturers recommendations, and replace or reset as directed.

**Above 9 ppm** – Potentially dangerous levels of CO. Recommend leaving building immediately and calling 9-1-1. Unsafe to reoccupy the building until repairs are made and detector is replaced per manufacturers specifications

**35 ppm** – Maximum allowable concentration for continuous exposure in any 8 hour period according to OSHA Law

**100 ppm** – Potential lethal level of CO. Leave building immediately

## Vehicle Fires

Automobiles, trucks, and other motor vehicles are made of many synthetic materials that emit harmful, if not deadly gases when they burn. A vehicle fire can generate heat upwards of 1500 degrees F, keep in mind that water boils at 212 degrees F and that most foods are cooked at temperatures of less than 500 degrees F. Flames from burning vehicles can often shoot out distances of 10 feet or more. Parts of the vehicle can burst because of heat, shooting debris great distances. Bumper, struts, two-piece rims, magnesium wheels, drive shafts, and engine parts can all become lethal shrapnel. Although relatively rare, gas tanks can rupture and spray flammable fuel posing a clear potential for serious injury. CFD personnel respond to vehicle fires, set up a safe area to operate in, wear full personal protective equipment, and use large amounts of water to extinguish the flames.



# Town of Clayton Fire Department Operations



## Fire Prevention and Public Education

The Fire Marshal oversees the Risk Management Division and also the Fire Prevention and Public Education Program. Below is some information for adults and children

### Dialing 9-1-1

Parents/Guardians should ensure children know how to dial 9-1-1 and tell them it is for emergencies only. Use a toy phone to practice or a phone that has been disconnected from the wall. (non-active cell phones can still connect to 9-1-1 center)

### E.D.I.T.H. – Exit Drills In The Home

Has taken the place of the Tot Finder Stickers due to people moving and not removing them and intruders using the stickers as a key room to enter without problems. The EDITH plan states that families should plan at least 2 escape routes out of building, in event one route is blocked by fire. These escape routes should be practiced and you can make it fun by doing it with your eyes closed and going through the routes (in a real fire, it is likely smoke will reduce visibility greatly if not totally).

### Meeting Place

When you exit your home, we recommend assigning a meeting place for everyone to meet at. This will allow FD personnel to go to one place and see if everyone is out. Some families choose to use their mailbox or big tree in the yard. The only precaution is that if you use your mailbox, remember most mailboxes are right beside the roadway, and that roadway will soon be full of big fire trucks so be sure to keep your family out of the road.

### Smoke Detectors

Should be installed in all living areas, tested monthly, and batteries changed out every 6 months (when daylight savings time changes). Even if your smoke detectors are hard-wired, batteries still need replacing because they serve as a backup if power is off to the house. A typical life span of a smoke detector is 7-10 years (follow manufactures recommendations) Note-you can use the discarded batteries for non-life safety devices such as toys, clocks, etc.

### Crawl

In the event your smoke detector activates, and there is smoke in you house, you will want to crawl low and go under the smoke. Smoke and heat travel upward and by staying low, you can see where you are going and be able to breath.

### Stop, Drop, and Roll

In the event your clothes catch on fire, STOP (don't run, fire likes oxygen and by running the fire will burn more), DROP to the ground and cover your face with hands, and ROLL back and forth to smother the flames.

### Matches/Lighters/Cooking

If a kid sees matches or lighters, they should be instructed to tell an adult and if another kid is playing with them, that's one time when its OK to be a "tattle-tale". When cooking, pot handles should be turned inward so a child can not reach up and pull the pot on top of them. Also while cooking, never leave it unattended and don't allow children to cook without supervision. Majority of fires start in the kitchen because someone cooking forgot about it and the pot / contents caught on fire. Never throw water on a grease fire!! Call 9-1-1 and if the pot has a lid, put the lid on the pot and exit the structure.