

## Chimney fire tactical priorities

Upon arrival at a chimney fire, immediately look to the top of the chimney and conduct a size up, is there fire showing from the chimney? Is there heavy smoke coming out with force? Are there embers only? Look at the eaves, the ridge and soffit vents to see if there is smoke visible. If there is, that could be an indicator that the fire has already spread from the chimney into the attic space. A good size up can give you an indication of whether the fire is still in the chimney or has extended to the structure.

As with any fire, life safety should be the primary initial concern. Ensure evacuation of the structure to ensure occupant safety. Remember that all fires are unpredictable, so full PPE and SCBA should be worn.

One of the first tactical priorities is to determine where the fire is. Using a TIC is the quickest method to determine this. A rapid inspection of all floors should be conducted to check for any visible smoke. Use the TIC to determine any high heat signatures in the chimney and the adjacent walls. A pre-connected hand line should be stretched to the most appropriate entry point in the event the fire progresses into the structure. The next priority should be to extinguish the fire in the firebox of the stove (or fireplace). A crew can extinguish the fire in the fire box while a roof crew is accessing the roof to inspect the top of the chimney.

## Chimney access

Can we get to a roof safely to access the chimney? Do we need ground ladders or can the tower reach the chimney? Is the Chimney in the middle of the structure or is it an exterior chimney? Should we be more concerned with an interior chimney verse an exterior chimney? If so why? Is it ok to place a ground ladder against a chimney? Much consideration to the strength of the roof should be given. ALWAYS use a roof ladder when working on a roof. If needed, utilize the tether ropes from Tower 1 and hook into the bucket or roof ladder to prevent falling. What do we do if the roof ladders do not span the entire roof? NFD roof ladders are 16 feet in length. Larger homes will have roof spans longer than our roof ladders.

## Extinguishing

There are several methods for extinguishing a chimney fire. With property conservation in mind, place a salvage cover around the stove/fire place, use a water can and extinguish the fire in the fire box. The steam going up the chimney may start to control the fire in the chimney. A chimney cap can be placed on top of the chimney opening to keep the steam buildup in the chimney to assist in extinguishing if needed. Remove the remaining burning material in the fire box and place in a metal can. Remove to the exterior of the structure and extinguish completely.