

VENTILATION – POSITIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- This protocol applies to post fire knockdown, rescue, salvage, and exposure protection. **If there is an active fire in the space you are pressuring you are doing a PPA. See that Protocol.**
- CO is an issue with PPV. Monitor it and consider electric fans.
- Fire in the attic, walls, floors, or other voids – apply only with extreme caution and coordination.
- Coordination between fire control and ventilation teams is critical.

PROTOCOL:

1. Perform a ventilation size-up.
2. Determine the fire control avenue and use it as the vent point if possible.
3. Determine the best location to exhaust air from the structure based on fire control's needs.
4. Start fan pointed away from air vent point.
5. Coordinate with interior crews to ensure they are ready for PPV.
6. Consider a ventilation member at the exhaust location to make the opening and monitor its effectiveness. Particularly important in Multi-family/Large structures.
7. Turn fan in and adjust cone of air to seal opening into area to be ventilated.
8. Continue to monitor for unexpected changes in fire conditions (i.e. attic fire).
9. Control interior and exterior openings as needed to obtain desired results.
10. Consider multiple fan configurations to increase effectiveness.
11. Aggressive overhaul must begin as soon as possible! Consider shutting down the fan during overhaul operations as the pressure can mask the smoke from hotspots.
12. Monitor CO levels during overhaul and use exhaust tubes if needed.

Exposure Protection Considerations

Exposures can be a separate attached or detached structure as well as uninvolved rooms in a large structure.

- **Do not create any exhaust openings;** the goal is to increase the pressure enough to keep the fire from spreading into the exposure.
- Provide a protection line and consider opening any void spaces to confirm there is no extension.