

GUIDELINES FOR LOW-RISE APARTMENTS

BY: Bill Gustin, Captain, Miami - Dade Fire Department

1. You must determine fire floor, exact fire location and path to fire before stretching hose.
2. Do not use elevators, but assign a company to recall and account for any trapped occupants.
3. For long stretches into courtyards, team up 2-3 companies.
4. Avoid hand laying hose upstairs > one floor. Rather, hoist hose up well hole or from window or balcony.
5. Fire contained within apartment, hoist hose directly to fire floor. **You must control the door to the fire apartment.** For fire/smoke in enclosed hallway, hoist to floor below and advance charged line upstairs.
6. Advancing a charged line up return stairs requires two companies (6 firefighters); one company to advance down hallway and one company “mules” to work in stairwell; one on floor below fire, one at half landing and one at fire floor landing.
7. After hoisting or well-stretching hose, be sure to secure it with rope or strap before charging.
8. Protect in place: the best way to protect a large number of occupants is to locate the fire and control it. Don't let distractions deter you from rapidly extending and operating the first attack hoseline.
9. To avoid a long, time consuming hose stretch up stairs and down a hallway, consider laddering an adjacent unit, entering and attacking the fire from the hallway.
10. A secondary search is not complete until all floors/areas have been monitored for carbon monoxide.