

# **GUIDELINES FOR WAREHOUSES AND MAUNUFACTURING OCCUPANCIES**

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1. When closed after hours, scan overhead doors with T.I.C. to locate fire.
2. Assign one of the first arriving companies to pump into sprinkler siamese at 100 psi and ensure that valves are open.
3. If indications of heavy fire in small “strip” warehouse bays, avoid entering through swinging doors; they usually lead to a congested, poorly constructed office with, literally, tons of storage overhead.
4. Overhead doors provide greater ventilation and usually open to main aisles.
5. Try to raise the overhead doors intact by accessing locks, latches, hoisting chains and be sure to place a pike pole in their tracks to prevent closing unexpectedly.
6. Use T.I.C. immediately upon entering to view:
  - A) roof construction and damage.
  - B) presence of overhead storage.
  - C) location of fire.
  - D) fire high over your head.
7. Use 2 ½ inch hoselines for reach, penetration and gpm.
8. Determine occupancy and contents ASAP. If undermined, set up defensive positions (transitional mode) back up hose lines and limit how far companies penetrate into building.
9. Companies entering warehouses should equip themselves with bolt cutters to cut pad locks securing latches and hoisting chains on overhead doors.
10. The further you advance a hose line into a structure, the more you need a back-up line. Don’t hesitate to ask for one!
11. Do not count on your SCBA low air alarm to tell you when to get out of a large building.
12. Always be aware of your company’s location; escape route and remaining air supply.
13. When searching for fire in a sprinkled warehouse, consider using rope bags rather than advancing hundreds of feet of hose lines.

14. Get a report from the roof ASAP noting:
  - A) sag
  - B) fire burn through
  - C) heavy loads such A/C units
  - D) sound of sprinkler operating
15. Remember, in large commercial buildings, the shortest, most direct path to the fire is usually the safest. If you cannot locate fire within 200 ft. of your entrance, withdraw and try another doorway.
16. Beware of the truss! Storage and manufacturing occupancies require large, unobstructed floor areas; hence, their roofs must be supported by some manner of truss construction; **none** of which is fire resistant. Intense, uncontrolled fire >20 minutes, expect roof collapse.