

	<b>Queen Anne's County Fire &amp; EMS Commission Operations Manual</b>	No. 02.09
		Effective Date: December 1, 2001
	<b>Chimney Fires</b>	Revised Date: November 5, 2015

**I. SCOPE**

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. To establish guidelines for a response to chimney fires.

**III. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

**IV. SIZE UP**

- A. Upon arrival of the 1st Unit officer, the officer will perform a size up and give "Queen Anne" an initial status report, and request additional resources as needed.
- B. The unit officer should assume or pass command.
- C. Management of this incident will be according to the County's Incident Command System.
- D. The IC will account for all occupants of the building or residence.
- E. The fire department will locate the chimney and determine the condition factors.
  - 1. Interior/Exterior
  - 2. Cracks, lined or unlined, age of the chimney
  - 3. Location of cleanouts

F. The Fire Department should consider the possibility and probability of extension.

1. Evidence of leakage through cracks
2. Hot spots behind concealed spaces
3. Sound of fire crackling behind the walls
4. Smoke from eaves or attic space

\*(The IC should consider the utilization of a Thermal Imaging Camera as an additional resource. This could minimize damage to the structure from crews checking for extension.)

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Roof team should ladder the building while the inside team checks interior conditions.
- B. The IC shall assign duties and responsibilities consistent with the Incident Command System.
- C. Inside team should remove stovepipe from chimney if applicable and check conditions inside the chimney. Roof may use dry chemical extinguisher, chimney bombs or a chimney snuffer to extinguish or knock down the fire. Use chimney chain or cleaning device to clear any blockage and scrape liner of any build up.
- D. Salvage covers and equipment shall be used to minimize damage to homeowner's property.
- E. Provide ventilation if needed.
- F. Inside team should remove debris until chimney is clear. Clean up any mess and replace stovepipe and stove as found.

**VI. ADVISE HOMEOWNER OR TENANT OF ANY UNSAFE CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES.**

- A. Cracked flue.
- B. Stovepipe in poor conditions.
- C. Stacked wood or combustibles too close to the stove.
- D. No heat barrier between stove and wall or the floor.

E. No smoke detectors.

**VII. SAFETY**

A. Full protective clothing and SCBA for all roof team members. Inside team at the discretion of the OIC.

B. Be careful of ice and slippery conditions on roof.

C. Eye protection when looking down chimneys.

D. Avoid laddering the chimney – may cause collapse.

E. Watch out for wires when laddering the building.

F. Always use a roof ladder when working on the roof.

G. Make sure fire was contained in chimney. Double check for hot spots before leaving the scene.

---

William H. Faust, Chairman  
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission