

BULLETIN

NO.: 13-043

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TO: All Personnel

FROM: Brian Fennessy, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Operations
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SUBJECT: 10-Minute Timer – Working Structure Fires

Beginning April 27, 2013, the Fire Communications Center (FCC) will begin implementing a 10- minute incident timer (instead of the current 20-minute timer) on all working structure fires.

It is important to note that the 20-minute timer was based upon older construction and conventional fire loads. Research and experience has shown that with light-weight, wood frame construction, and newer synthetic fire loads, structure fires are burning and collapsing considerably faster and without warning.

The 10-minute timer will provide the Incident Commander (IC) with situational awareness in regards to active burn time, integrity of the structure, personnel workload and exertion thresholds, air management, strategic planning, effectiveness of suppression efforts, and assignment of relief personnel.

The following verbiage will be added to the FCC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) related to radio procedures:

The incident timer starts when the calls appears the CAD Pending Queue (confirmation of valid address and nature/problem). The Fire Radio Operator will give the IC a 10 minute time notification during a working fire, i.e. "Broadway IC, you are now 10 minutes into your incident. These notifications will continue every 10 minutes until the IC indicates that they are no longer necessary. If the IC advises that the fire has been knocked down and/or they are 30-40 minutes into the incident, it is acceptable for the radio operator to inquire with the IC if they wish to continue the 10 minute timer.

Questions or concerns with the implementation of this new procedure should be addressed through your immediate chain of command.