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## Standard Operating Guidelines

**SOG NO.:** KP-2-0024  
**SOG TITLE:** RETAIL WAREHOUSES  
**ADOPTION DATE:** 01/95  
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**Purpose:** To establish guidelines and procedures for handling incidents at Retail Warehouse facilities.

**Retail Warehouses pose specific issues related to hazards posed and appropriate response and action. These include:**

1. Hazards:

- A. Mixed storage arrangements, including high rack storage, palletized storage, boxed shelving , interior partitioning, etc.
- B. Combined product storage, including pesticides, pool chemicals, cleaning agents, aerosols, and flammable liquids/materials.
- C. Life hazards, including civilians in storage areas, falling stock potential, large fire load, and ineffective fixed suppression systems due to storage methods.

2. Response:

- A. In addition to life and fire hazard, response to this type of structure should also be considered a potential environmental hazard.

- initial and secondary evacuation may have to be considered prior to suppression.
  - run-off and material containment measures may have to precede fire suppression activities.
- B. Due to the building size and fire load, an adequate water supply and support of fixed fire suppression systems must be a high priority. Supply lines and initial attack lines must be large enough to support defensive and offensive fire operations.
- 2.5 inch initial attack lines
  - multiple 5 inch supply lines from multiple sources
  - separate supply lines for fixed systems and attack units
  - multiple ladder pipe/deluge operations probable
- C. Due to run-off hazard potential, the Spill Control Unit should respond automatically, and be prepared to contain and control run-off. If necessary, a Hazardous Materials Response Team should be dispatched.
- D. Ventilation will be difficult if not impossible, and due to the large expanse of open floor space and large fire load, roof operations should be kept to a minimum, particularly if there is visible fire within the structure. If it is determined that toxic fumes/smoke is being produced, alternative ventilation methods intended to minimize or direct these fumes should be considered.

### 3. Incident Management:

- A. Any incident involving a retail warehouse will be dispatched and responded to as a routine "structure" response. The ranking officer/incident commander can adjust that response en-route, based upon information available to him/her.
- B. In keeping with our safety and incident management guidelines, should there be visible fire within the structure that is **NOT** being controlled by fixed fire protection systems, actions should be directed

to large volume applications, air monitoring should immediately begin, and preparations for exterior operations only planned for. If the internal fixed systems are not able to confine/control the fire, it is assumed that the fire growth and development will be beyond the system capability, thus placing fire fighters and fire equipment at risk.

- C. At that determination that fire growth is not able to be controlled, Emergency Evacuation Signal shall be commenced, with exterior fire/hazard/evacuation control initiatives begun and run-off precautions taken, and appropriate agencies contacted.