



WHITE PAPER

July 10, 2025

TO: FIREScope Board of Directors
23300 Castle Street
Riverside, CA 92518-2200

FROM: FIREScope Operations Team, Task Force, & Structure Fire Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Adding Structure Fire Chapter into the FIREScope Field Operations Guide

APPROVAL: The FIREScope Board of Directors approved this White Paper on July 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The FIREScope Field Operations Guide (FOG), last updated in 2022, currently includes limited guidance on structure fire operations within Chapter 12, which broadly addresses organizational guides for various incident types (i.e. Wildland Fires, USAR, HazMat). Given the inherent complexity, life safety risks, and significant resource requirements associated with structure fires, these incidents warrant a dedicated chapter in the FOG manual.

The recently updated ICS-500 document provides a comprehensive framework for structure fire incident organization and management. Leveraging this document, FIREScope can enhance the state of California's fire service capabilities by providing clear, consistent, and professional guidance on structure fire mitigation.

This proposal recommends tasking the FIREScope Structure Fire Subcommittee with developing a new chapter in the FOG specifically tailored to structure fire incidents. This will strengthen operational efficiency and safety across the state of California.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The FIREScope Structure Fire Sub-Committee will be tasked with the following:

1. **Chapter Development:** Condensing and adapting the ICS-500 document into a Structure Fire chapter for the FOG, ensuring alignment with ICS principles and California-specific requirements.
 - Command and Control
 - Risk Assessment
 - Accountability
 - Resource management



2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborating with fire service organizations, training officers, and subject matter experts to validate the chapter's content.
3. **Finalization and Integration:** Based on feedback, we will refine and integrate the chapter into the next FOG revision.

FISCAL IMPACTS/COST ANALYSIS

The fiscal impacts on California fire agencies adopting the document are unknown. The adopting agencies will be responsible for training their fire service members and will need to create training programs that meet the needs of the agency. Costs associated with this change may impact their established budgets.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation plan starts with getting approval from the FIRESCOPE Decision Process to pursue this project. If approved, the project will be added to the Structure Fire subcommittees' 2025 scope of work. The committee will meet at their regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to produce the chapter. The goal is to present the chapter to Task Force by the end of 2025.

FINDINGS

Structure fires are among the most dynamic and hazardous emergencies that fire service personnel face. While the current FOG provides foundational guidance, it lacks the depth required to address these incidents' nuances. A dedicated chapter will:

1. **Address Complexity:** Structure fires often involve life safety hazards, multi-agency response, hazardous materials, and building collapse risks; necessitating detailed organizational strategies.
2. **Enhance Life Safety:** Clear guidance will support life safety priorities for civilians and firefighters, emphasizing coordinated search, rescue, and firefighting efforts.
3. **Standardize Practices:** A dedicated chapter will improve consistency in command, control, and coordination across jurisdictions, aligning with ICS principles outlined in ICS-500.
4. **Improve Resource Management:** Structured guidance will optimize the allocation and deployment of resources, improving operational outcomes.

CONCLUSION

A dedicated structure fire chapter in the FIRESCOPE FOG will provide a quick reference for structure fire operations. This chapter will provide fire service professionals with the tools and strategies necessary to mitigate structure fire incidents safely and effectively. By leveraging the updated ICS-500 document, FIRESCOPE will enhance consistency in operations, resource management, and life safety across California.