



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**CHIMNEY FIRES**

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**Purpose:** To establish criteria to assist GFD personnel when responding to chimney fires.

The following considerations should be made when dealing with chimney fires:

- Radio communications must be maintained by the Incident Commander, and include all firefighting crews functioning both in the interior of the structure and those functioning on the roof or ladder.
- Ensure that the structure is evacuated.
- Request additional units as necessary.
- Remove all fuel and coals from stove or fireplace.
- Shut off the gas supply if there is a log lighter.
- Place fuel and coals in a metal chimney box or other metal container to remove from house.
- Run a chain down from the roof inside the chimney to knock down fuel, and remove falling debris in a metal container.
- Check chimney with a mirror to see if fire is extinguished.
- Check for heat or an open flame around the chimney in the basement, as well as on each floor including the attic.
- Check for heat behind all walls - Use thermal imaging to assist in determining the presence of fire and heat.
- Firefighters working on the roof must wear full PPE including goggles and fire-resistant gloves.
- A serious chimney fire will present with intense heat, heavy smoke or open flames further justifying full PPE with SCBA.
- If possible, use salvage covers on the floor(s) of the building to minimize damage.