**Watercraft & Marina Fires**

**Chief’s Directive**

**10/15/2019**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this directive is to outline the deployment and responsibilities of all companies when responding to and dealing with structure and watercraft fires on or along an open waterway including Taylorsville Lake.

**Responsibilities:**

For all marine firefighting situations, All commanders of the Taylorsville-Spencer County Fire

Protection District shall adopt a conservative response posture. Members shall perform defensive

firefighting operations, except to save a known life or in the very early stages of a fire.

**Procedure:**

The primary role of the TSCFD during watercraft and marine fires is to prevent loss of life, minimize property damage and to protect the environment.

Traditionally, the TSCFD provides water rescue equipment and training to protect its citizens and property. Occasionally, TSCFD is called upon to fight fires onboard watercraft or our local marina. Although the TSCFD clearly has an interest in fighting fires involving watercraft or waterfront facilities, the primary responsibility is the safety of all firefighters involved.

The TSCFD will render assistance as available, based on the level of personnel training and the equipment available. TSCFD companies do not have advanced marine firefighting capabilities. Marine Firefighting requires technical expertise and a long-term training program to be performed safely. Maritime firefighting is particularly hazardous on watercraft.

Paramount in preparing for watercraft or waterfront fires is the need to integrate the TSCFD planning and training efforts with those of other responding agencies. A full alarm structure assignment will respond to these calls. Mutual aid as determined by the incident commander.

Responding units will perform defensive operations on watercraft fires. Offensive operations will only be attempted to save a known HUMAN LIFE. Any watercraft that can safely be towed or pushed to an open area without endangering the lives of onboard firefighters should be attempted. This will include but is not limited to watercraft at docks, attached to floating structures or tied to other watercraft.

All Members of TSCFD will have on a PFD when operating within 15 feet of the water. Members shall utilize Structural Firefighting PPE with SCBA and face piece when attempting to board a watercraft or structure to save a known HUMAN LIFE.

Members wearing PPE (turnout gear and SCBA) will not operate within 15 feet of the water’s edge (including all operations on watercraft unless they are property trained in accident water immersion for firefighters. Personnel who do not meet this training requirement will not operate within 15 feet of the water wearing full PPE. (turnout gear and SCBA)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nathan B. Nation, Fire Chief