Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-39**	**Subject:** **Roof-Top Operations**	**Date Issued** **03/03**	**Date Revised** **03/08**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe ventilation or rescue operations on roofs.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- Before any roof operations begin, the type of building construction and type of roof on the structure must be determined.
  - Particular attention shall be given to Lightweight truss roof construction to ensure the roof integrity is intact and the roof is stable, re-assess integrity of the roof often.
- Two ladders will be used to access a roof. One ladder will serve as the primary access to the roof, while another ladder is set up as a secondary escape route on the opposite side of the building.
- A roof ladder shall be used on a pitched-roof whenever possible to provide extra safety. (Roof ladders are unsafe on metal roof's)
- When ventilating a roof, the person ventilating will do so from the windward side of the hole they are cutting.
- The appropriate tool shall be used when cutting a ventilation hole.
- Another firefighter will be present with the appropriate tools to complete the ventilation-hole.
- The persons making the ventilation hole shall ensure that the ceiling beneath the hole is properly breached to allow proper ventilation.
- Unless ordered by an officer, a hose stream will not be directed down a vent hole, as this will disrupt proper ventilation and endanger any attack teams in the building.

- One person on the roof detail will have a radio to ensure safe communication with the commander on the ground.
- Roof operations will not be attempted if the structure is deemed unsound.
- Firefighters on the roof will pay particular attention to any changes in the roof's integrity, and evacuate if a dangerous situation develops.
- Only the amount of personnel needed to perform the duties are to be on the roof at any time.
- No ventilation will take place on a bowstring truss roof. N**EVER!!**