

Firefighters learn how to better fight high-rise blazes

Posted: Apr 10, 2013 8:03 PM EDT Updated: Apr 10, 2013 9:13 PM EDT

By FOX 10 News - Staff Report

PHOENIX - Fire chiefs from around the country met in Phoenix Wednesday to talk about how to stop high-rise fires from raging out of control.

More than 43 high-rise fires break out in the U.S. every day. Firefighters at the Sheraton Hotel downtown discussed the importance of sending a massive response to fires in skyscrapers and large buildings.

Experts say dispatching a massive presence quickly gives fire crews more options to find strategies to stop the flames.

"Crew size matters. Larger crews coming to a fire early are much important than sending smaller crews over time," says Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, International Association of Firefighters, Research.

"I think the biggest thing is they can be assured that that one moment they may be in a high rise or have to do business in a high rise, that they'll be safe," says Phoenix Fire Bryant Johnston.

Phoenix Fire department says the ability to send a large response is vital to keep high-rise fires from burning out of control.