Don’t underestimate the danger to firefighters when fighting a row house fire. Access to the rear of the property is a major challenge. Basement and cellar fires in row houses have resulted in many line of duty deaths. You must be diligent and prepare as though you’re going to a fire each time you report for duty.

Assistant Chief Harry Bannan
Philadelphia Fire Department, Platoon D

Basic skills – quick, proficient hoseline deployment and advancement – aggressive searches. Firefighters must perform these skills effectively when fighting row home fires.

Firefighter Vincent DeNisio
Wilmington, DE Fire Department, Squad 4

Conduct a community risk assessment to understand unique features of row houses in your jurisdiction. Row house modernization efforts may mean the exterior is refaced and interior has a different floor plan. Materials used for modernization or new row house construction may burn more quickly.

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