

The Incident Commanders Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting

Rapidly Conduct, or Obtain, a 360 Degree Size Up of the Incident

Objective: To cause the incident commander to obtain an early 360 degree survey and risk assessment of the fireground in order to determine the safest approach to tactical operations as part the risk assessment and action plan development and before firefighters are placed at substantial risk.

Determine the Occupant Survival Profile.

Objective: To cause the incident commander to consider fire conditions and determine if any occupants can survive fire conditions and the rescue before committing firefighters to high risk search and rescue operations as part action plan development.

Conduct an Initial Risk Assessment and Implement a SAFE ACTION PLAN

Objective: To cause the incident commander to develop a safe action plan by conducting a thorough size-up, assess the occupant survival profile and completing a thorough risk assessment before firefighters are placed in high risk positions on the fireground.

If You Do Not Have the Resources to Protect Firefighters – Seriously Consider a Defensive Strategy

Objective: To limit the commitment of firefighters to high risk tactical objectives that cannot be accomplished safely due to inadequate resources on the scene to properly support operations.

DO NOT Risk Firefighter Lives for Lives or Property That Can Not Be Saved – Seriously Consider a Defensive Strategy.

Objective: To prevent the commitment of firefighters to risky operations that may harm them when fire conditions prevent occupant survival and will destroy the building.

Extend LIMITED Risk to Protect SAVABLE Property.

Objective: To cause the incident commander to limit risk exposure to a reasonable, cautious and conservative level when trying to save a building that is believed, following a thorough size up, to be savable.

Extend Vigilant and Measured Risk to Protect and Rescue SAVABLE Lives.

Objective: To cause the incident commander to manage search and rescue, and supporting firefighting operations, in a highly calculated, controlled, and cautious manner to insure safe operations during high risk search and rescue operations.

Firefighters Are Required to Report Unsafe Practices and Conditions That Will Harm Them. Stop, Evaluate and Decide.

Objective: To prevent firefighters and supervisors from engaging in unsafe practices or exposure to unsafe conditions and allowing any member to raise an alert about a safety concern without penalty and mandating the incident commander and command organization officers promptly address the question to insure safe operations.

Maintain Frequent Two-Way Communications and Keep Interior Crews Informed of Changing Conditions

Objective: To insure that the incident commander is obtaining frequent progress reports and all interior crews are kept informed of changing fire conditions observed from the exterior by the incident commander or other command officers that may affect crew safety.

Obtain Frequent Progress Reports and Revise the Action Plan

Objective: To cause the incident commander, as well as all command organization officers, to obtain frequent progress reports, to continually assess fire conditions and any risk to firefighters and to regularly adjust and revise the action plan.

Upon Completion of the Primary Search and Little or No Progress Towards Fire Control Has Been Achieved - Seriously Consider a Defensive Strategy.

Objective: To cause a benchmark decision point, requiring the incident commander to determine if it's safe to continue offensive interior operations if there are no lives to be saved following the completion of the primary search.

Always Have a Rapid Intervention Team in Place.

Objective: To cause the incident commander to have a rapid intervention team in place ready to rescue firefighters at all working fires.