

13.0 Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival.

Size-Up Your Tactical Area of Operation.

Objective: To cause the company officer and firefighters to pause for a moment and look over their area of operation and evaluate their *individual* risk exposure and determine a safe approach to completing their assigned tactical objectives.

Determine the Occupant Survival Profile.

Objective: To cause the company officer and firefighter to consider fire conditions in relation to possible occupant survival of a successful *rescue event* as part of their initial and ongoing *individual risk assessment* and action plan development.

DO NOT Risk Your Life for Lives or Property That Can Not Be Saved.

Objective: To prevent firefighters from engaging in high risk search and rescue and firefighting operations which may harm them when fire conditions prevent occupant survival and significant or total destruction of the building is inevitable.

Extend *LIMITED* Risk to Protect *SAVABLE* Property.

Objective; To cause firefighters to limit risk exposure to a reasonable, cautious and conservative level when trying to save a building.

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

Objective: To cause firefighters to manage search and rescue and supporting firefighting operations in a calculated, controlled and safe manner, *while remaining alert to changing conditions*, during high risk primary search and rescue operations where lives can be saved.

Go in Together, Stay Together, Come Out Together

Objective: To ensure that firefighters always enter a burning building as a team of two or more members and *no firefighter is allowed to be alone at any time* while entering, operating in or exiting a

Maintain Continuous Awareness of Your Air Supply, Situation, Location and Fire Conditions

Objective: To cause all firefighters and company officers to maintain constant situational awareness their SCBA air supply and where they are in the building and all that is happening in their area of operations and elsewhere on the fireground that may affect their risk and safety.

Constantly Monitor Fireground Communications for Critical Radio Reports.

Objective: To cause all firefighters and company officers to maintain constant awareness of *all* fireground radio communications on their assigned channel for progress reports, critical messages or other information that may affect their risk and safety.

You Are Required to Report Unsafe Practices or Conditions That Can Harm You. Stop, Evaluate, and Decide.

Objective: To prevent company officers and firefighters from engaging in unsafe practices or exposure to unsafe conditions that can harm them and *allowing any member to raise an alert about a safety concern without penalty* and mandating the supervisor address the question to insure safe operations.

You Are Required to Abandon Your Position and Retreat Before Deteriorating Conditions Can Harm You.

Objective: To cause firefighters and company officers to be aware of fire conditions and cause an early exit to a safe area when they are exposed to deteriorating conditions, unacceptable risk and a life threatening situation.

Declare a May-Day As Soon As You THINK You Are in Danger

Objective: To insure the firefighter is comfortable with, and there is no delay in, declaring a May Day when a firefighter is faced with a life threatening situation and the May Day is declared as soon as they THINK they are in trouble.

Revised 1/20/12

The Incident Commanders Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Safety

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 cit substantial risk.*

Determine the Occupant Survival Profile.

Objective: To cause the incident commander to consider fire conditions in relation to possible occupant survival of a successful *rescue event* before committing firefighters to high risk search and rescue operations as part of the initial and ongoing *risk assessment* and 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 Safely Support and Protect Firefighters — Seriously Consider a Defensive Strategy

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

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 high risk search and rescue and firefighting operations that may harm them when fire conditions prevent occupant survival and significant or total destruction of the building is inevitable.

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, *while remaining alert to changing conditions*, during high risk search and rescue operations where lives can be saved.

Act Upon Reported Unsafe Practices and Conditions That Can Harm Them. Stop, Evaluate and Decide.

Objective: To prevent firefighters and supervisors from engaging in unsafe practices or exposure to unsafe conditions that will harm them 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 from command organization officers 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 to maintain safe operations.

Ensure Accurate Accountability of All Firefighter Location and Status

Objective: To cause the incident commander, and command organization officers, to maintain a constant and accurate accountability of the location and status of all firefighters within a small geographic area of accuracy within the hazard zone and be aware of who is presently in or out of the building.

If, After Completion of the Primary Search, 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 is no progress in controlling the fire and there are no lives to be saved following the completion of the primary search.

Always Have a Rapid Intervention Team in Place at All Working Fires.

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

Always Have Firefighter Rehab Services in Place at All Working Fires.

Objective: To insure all firefighters who endured physically strenuous activity at a working fire are rehabilitated and medically evaluated for continued duty.