

# TACTICAL GUIDELINES

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

DATE APPROVED: June 2007

### **I. Scope**

This standard shall regulate the management of all emergency incidents to which the department responds.

- A. Establish rules and procedures to manage fire control and rescue activities.
- B. Produce standard and predictable fire control and rescue results.

### **II. Goals and Objectives**

- A. A fire is the direct result of a failure of our fire prevention efforts. The best fires are the ones that never get started. Therefore, it is the goal of this department to prevent fires and to save lives and property.
- B. In pursuit of this goal, it shall be the policy of the department to:
  1. Do no harm! Take no action that will cause further injury to a person or intentionally damage property.
  2. Be safe! Always obey all the safety rules and procedures of this department.
  3. Be nice! Always treat each other and members of the public with respect.

### **III. Operational Priorities**

Three priorities must be addressed at every incident to which the department responds. These priorities are discussed below in order of importance.

#### **A. Life safety/rescue:**

1. Primary search: It shall be standard procedure to extend a primary search in all involved and exposed occupancies that can be entered safely. The completion of the primary search process is reported using the standard radio reporting term "All clear."
2. Rescue efforts: Extend rescue efforts in the following order:
  - a. The most severely threatened.
  - b. The largest number of people.
  - c. The remainder of the fire area.
  - d. The exposed areas.
3. Firefighter safety: Due to the hazardous nature of firefighting, the safety of firefighters is of primary importance. Therefore, the following safety rules are to be observed:
  - a. All persons involved in firefighting or other hazardous situations shall wear full protective clothing and SCBA. No one, regardless of rank, shall enter a hazardous atmosphere without SCBA.

- b. The incident commander and division officers shall be responsible for persons operating in hazardous locations and shall make sure that all personnel are accounted for.
  4. Victim recovery: The fire department shall conduct a secondary search after the fire is out and shall assist in the recovery of all fire victims. On recovery, the appropriate authorities will be notified, and at no time shall the names of injured or deceased victims be mentioned on the radio.
  5. Rehab station: At large working fires, multiple alarms, etc., the rehab section will be established at the scene and set up an aid station in an accessible, uncongested area. The incident commander shall give whatever support is necessary to assist the rehab station.
    - a. At every incident, at least one EMS unit (preferably ALS) will be assigned to monitor the physical condition of the members present. The EMS unit shall have the authority to relieve members of their duties for a period of time, if necessary.
    - b. The rehab station will be responsible for reporting the status of the members under their supervision to the incident commander.
  6. Safety officer: At least one member will be assigned as safety officer by the incident commander at a working incident. The safety officer shall have the authority to correct any safety violations. Following the incident, all violations will be reported to the incident commander in writing.
- B. Fire control:
1. It is standard procedure to attempt to stabilize fire conditions by extending, wherever possible, an aggressive, well-placed, and adequate interior (offensive) fire attack effort and to support that aggressive attack with whatever resource and action may be required to reduce extension and to bring the fire under control.
  2. Initial attack efforts must be directed toward supporting primary search and rescue operations.
  3. The following operations are to be initiated at every incident:
    - a. Size-up.
    - b. Rescue/life safety.
    - c. Exposure protection.
    - d. Confinement.
    - e. Extinguishment.
    - f. Overhaul.
  4. Write off property that is lost and protect exposed property based on the most dangerous direction of spread. Always attack structure fires from the unburned side! Do not continue operations in positions that are essentially lost.

5. Fire stream management:

- a. It is the responsibility of each engine company to provide its own uninterrupted, adequate supply of water. "Provide" does not necessarily mean to lay a supply line or pump the water, but rather to get an adequate, reliable supply of water into the pump by whatever means available.
- b. When in doubt, lay hose (in a hydrant area). The company officer shall make this decision. Remember, it is better to pick up a dry line that wasn't used than to need a line that wasn't laid out.
- c. Factors relating to the type of line pulled:
  1. Size
  2. Placement.
  3. Speed.
  4. Mobility.
  5. Supply.
- d. Booster lines shall not be pulled as the first line on working structure or automobile fires. Hose-lines of 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches shall be the minimum size pulled.
- e. Hose-line placement:
  1. Place the first stream between the fire and the persons endangered by it.
  2. If no life is endangered, place the first stream between the fire and the most severe exposure.
  3. The second line should be taken to the secondary means of egress or the floor above the fire.
  4. A third line should back up the first.
  5. Assist rescue.
  6. Protect exposures.
  7. Support confinement.
- f. Operate heavy streams, if necessary, but not when an interior attack is taking place. Do not combine interior and exterior attacks. Before heavy exterior streams are operated, the incident commander shall have it announced via radio.
- g. Shut nozzles down when necessary. Do not operate into ventilation holes!

C. Property conservation:

1. After rescue and fire control considerations, it shall be standard procedure to commit whatever fire-ground resources are required to reduce loss to an absolute minimum. All members are expected to perform in a manner that consistently reduces loss during fire operations. The thermal imaging camera is a valuable property conservation tool.

2. Property conservation activities shall include but are not limited to:
  - a. Prompt interior and exterior fire-ground lighting.
  - b. Proper ventilation.
    1. Mechanical (PPV).
    2. Natural.
  - c. Salvage
  - d. Overhaul
  - e. Proper fire stream management
3. If necessary, the incident commander shall call for fresh or additional personnel to complete property conservation activities.