

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>
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Part 1: Response Guidelines

Subject: Tactical Priorities

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Section: 2-1-21

Effective Date: 05-01-96

Revised Date:

21.01 Purpose. To provide a basic format for tactical operations.

21.02 Goal. To provide a guideline which emphasizes proven tactical principles, and the safety of department personnel.

21.03 Definitions.

- A) Rescue. (1st priority) Action taken to protect occupants of involved structures or fire areas. To remove threatened persons from danger. To treat the injured.
- B) Fire Control. (Incident Stabilization). (2nd priority) Actions taken to stop the forward progress of a fire and bring it under control.
- C) Property Conservation. (3rd priority) Action taken to stop or reduce the loss of property.

21.04 Policy.

- A) Tactical priorities are separate, yet interrelated, activities.
- B) Tactical priorities are addressed in the following order:
 - 1. Rescue.
 - 2. Fire Control.
 - 3. Property Conservation.
- C) While Command must complete each priority in its order, Command may overlap the "activities" of each to reach the current goal.

EXAMPLE: Need to reduce heat in a room (by applying water) before completing a primary search of the room.

21.05 Guideline.

A) Rescue.

1. Primary Search. All initial actions will concentrate on the quick, thorough completion of a primary search. Actions are based on the size-up of conditions. Three available options include:
 - a) "Nothing Showing on Arrival". Command must order a rapid thorough interior search.
 - b) "Working Fire". Command may direct fire control operations in support of rescue activities, to gain entry and control interior access. However, the priority remains RESCUE.
 - c) "Fully Involved". The extent and location of the fire may rule out a primary search. If conditions prohibit a primary search, Command will broadcast (through the dispatcher) that "there will not be an ALL CLEAR".
2. Safety of Personnel.
 - a) Command retains responsibility for the safety of operating personnel.
 - b) Firefighters conducting a primary search shall wear full protective clothing and functioning SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS.
 - c) Whenever possible, search teams are to be supported by charged hose lines.
 - d) Firefighters assigned to rescue must note the path they followed during entry. Provide alternate escape routes.
3. Communications Required.
 - a) Search Teams.
 - 1) will report the discovery of fire victims, their location, and help that is needed to carry out the rescue.
 - 2) will report fire location and direction of fire travel.
 - 3) will report, the completion of the search in their assigned area. (Example: "First floor, search completed.")

b) Command.

- 1) All Clear. When search teams have completed the primary search, Command will transmit the "all clear" message. This message is a signal to all members that operations will then concentrate on FIRE

CONTROL .

- 2) Fully Involved. When a primary search is not completed (size, location of the fire, etc.) Command will transmit there "will not be an ALL CLEAR given for this fire".

4. Secondary Search. Command must order a "secondary search" when FIRE CONTROL is achieved.

B) Fire Control.

1. Strategy Selection. Command will select a strategy based upon factors considered during size-up. Size-up will include the use of the three sources of fireground information: visual factors, reconnaissance, and pre-fire planning. Factors considered during size-up include:

- a) Fire Extent and Locations.
- b) Fire Effect.
- c) Life Hazard.
- d) Saveable Property.
- e) Entry and Tenability.
- f) Ventilation.
- g) Resources.

2. Fire Control Strategies.

- a) Offensive Strategy. An Interior attack, with related support, directed toward quickly bringing the fire under control.
- b) Defensive Strategy. An Exterior attack directed to first reduce fire extension and then bring the fire under control.

3. Basic Strategic Plans:

a) Offensive Plan:

- 1) Take command.
- 2) First line - (minimum 1 1/2 inch) aggressive, well-placed, interior attack from unburned side.
- 3) Provide support activities.
- 4) Conduct primary search.
- 5) Second line - back up first or cover secondary point of egress.
- 6) Pump water - provide adequate water for attack crews.
- 7) Quickly check results -- react as necessary.

b) Defensive Plan.

- 1) Take command.
- 2) Evaluate fire spread (write off lost property).
- 3) Identify key tactical positions (where is the fire going?)
- 4) Prioritize fire streams.
- 5) Provide BIG, well-placed streams.
- 6) Pump water (provide adequate supply for critical positions).
- 7) Determine need for additional resources.
- 8) Surround and extinguish fire.

4. Fire Streams.

- a) Interior Streams-(Offensive Strategy). Handlines used for interior fire control or to support search efforts shall be at least 1 1/2 inch.
- b) Exterior Streams-(Defensive Strategy). Use appropriate fire streams. Solid stream tips provide better penetration for heavy streams.

5. Fire Control Considerations.

- a) FIRE CONTROL actions must support any RESCUE effort.
- b) Situations can change and demand a change of strategy.
- c) DO NOT direct exterior fire streams into a structure while

people are in the building or area.

- d) An interior (offensive) attack starts from the unburned side.
- e) Command must provide support (including forcible entry and ventilation) to carry out FIRE CONTROL.

6. Safety of Personnel.

- a) Command must monitor changing conditions which affect the safety of personnel.
- b) Command must enforce the proper use of personal protective equipment.

7. Communications Required. When the fire's forward progress is stopped, Command will transmit the message, "the fire is under control".

Note: "Under Control" does not necessarily mean that all fires have been extinguished.

C) Property Conservation.

1. Fireground Considerations.

- a) The earlier salvage operations begin, the less damage there will be.
- b) Property conservation actions are based upon the resources (particularly manpower) that are available to carry them out.
- c) Command should request additional manpower if salvage operations require assistance.
- d) If the fire is out, shut down fire streams to stop further water damage.
- e) Command must remember the trade-off between damage caused by the attack, and the damage caused by the fire.

2. Safety of Personnel.

- a) Property conservation actions move with more caution, compared to RESCUE or FIRE CONTROL. Personnel hazards are identified (i.e. structural hazards, hazardous

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atmospheres) and explained to assigned crews.

3. Communications Required. Command will transmit the message "property loss has been stopped" when:
 - a) Actions to stop or reduce property damage are completed, and
 - b) Actions to prevent unauthorized entry or damage from the weather are completed.