

Buechel Fire Protection District

Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0004

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Title: Tactical Priorities

Approval Date – 8-2-1994

Section	Instruction
1.	<p>The purpose of this guideline is to guide the Fire-ground Commander in using suppression forces and other resources for the best solution to an emergency situation.</p> <p>Approach - Solving problems encountered on the emergency scene is done so in a logical and systematic fashion. This concept, called the fire-ground problem, offers factors to be considered which can be applied to any emergency. This concept, simply stated, is basically a three-step operation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify the problem2. Determine what resources will be needed3. Apply the resources to the problem <p>There are various tactical operations that may be necessary to accomplish each of the three steps</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Response Size-up Rescue Fire Control Salvage & Overhaul Many of these will overlap most of the time.</p> <p><u>Identification Steps:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Response: Information regarding the nature of the emergency will be obtained at the time of the dispatch. This determines the proper equipment response. Any additional information obtained may necessitate additional or specialized equipment.b. Size-up: This is the second part of the problem identification step, which over-laps with response, which is where size-up actually begins. A factor for effective size-up is proper pre-fire planning. Good size-up is important to make a proper determination regarding existing conditions and any probable fire spread potential. The Fire-ground Commander must consider the direction of fire spread as it affects rescue efforts, confinement efforts, and/or exposure protection. Resources must then be allocated based upon this strategic evaluation.

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2.	<p><u>Selecting Resources:</u> The determination of what resources will be needed to control any emergency is derived from the size-up. Any action decided upon must be continually re-evaluated to see if the desired results are being achieved.</p> <p>Size-up must cover all aspects of the situation pertaining to immediate action. The Fire-ground Commander must consider existing problems and any potential problems that may occur, and take actions to deal with these problems. Decisions regarding application of forces to any problem must be made in accordance with proper priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Rescue - number, location, and condition of victims.b. Exposures - exterior and interior.c. Control Efforts - locate, confine, and extinguish the fire.d. Salvage - may be necessary during the entire operation. <p>All of these are elaborated on in the next section; applying resources to the problem.</p>
3.	<p><u>Applying Resources to the Problem:</u> Once a determination has been made regarding what resources will be needed, they must be allocated according the above-mentioned priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. <i>Rescue</i> - The highest priority is to determine the degree of danger of the buildings occupants. Where fire poses an actual or probable threat to the safety of people, they should be removed. When companies are assigned to rescue duties, due consideration should be given to the effects on control efforts. Additional companies may be necessary.b. <i>Exposures</i> - There are three kinds of exposures to consider at fires:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Life Exposure</i> - The hazard to occupants or firefighters, either in the fire building or adjacent or threatened buildings.2. <i>Internal Exposure</i> - This is the exposure the fire building offers to itself, or the areas of the fire building which are not yet involved.3. <i>Exterior Exposure</i> - This is the exposure the fire building offers to other building or structures.

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	<p>Operations at major fires must be conducted so that control is always maintained on six sides of the fire - Side 1, Side 2, Side 3, Side 4, Top and Bottom.</p> <p>The protection of life exposures was covered in the previous section, rescue. The protection of internal and external exposures generally requires the placement of hose lines. The larger the exposure problems, the more lines may be necessary to control the fire. Consequently, additional companies may be necessary.</p> <p>c. <i>Control Efforts</i> - In the systematic approach to the fire problem, once any rescue problem has been eliminated, and all exposures are covered, resources can be concentrated on controlling the fire. Since most incidents do not involve rescues or severe exposure problems, this is often the initial tactical operation carried out. The logical sequence to fire control is to first locate the fire, then confine it to the area currently burning, and last to extinguish it. Many tactical fire-ground operations may be necessary to accomplish this goal. Examples are: forcible entry, ventilation, hose lays, ladder raises, etc. The Fire-ground Commanders strategic evaluation of what is going to be needed to control the fire determines his manpower allocation, and any subsequent calls for assistance.</p> <p>d. <i>Salvage and Overhaul</i> - These are the steps taken by suppression forces to minimize property loss and assure the fire is completely out. Salvage efforts may be undertaken simultaneously with suppression activities if warranted. It should be remembered that quick and proper salvage work does much to enhance the image of the fire District in the eyes of the property owner.</p> <p>Overhaul begins as soon as the fire is knocked down, and may involve the opening of concealed spaces where fire may have entered, removal of smoldering debris, and returning the scene to a safe as possible condition as before the fire or hazard was discovered.</p> <p>In summary, the Fire-ground Commander must make a determination of what resources will be needed to control an incident through size-up and a continuing re-evaluation of all conditions. He must call for, and assign personnel and equipment utilizing the stated priorities to achieve the desired results.</p>