

JOINT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

MODEL STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

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This guideline provides Department procedures for fire control options.

Fireground operations generally fall in one of two modes of attack or strategies: OFFENSIVE or DEFENSIVE. A third operating mode or strategy, defined as MARGINAL, uses a combination of offensive and defensive tactics when it is necessary to make a rescue to protect SAVABLE lives. For example, a person in a room full of fire is NOT SAVABLE while a person who is across the structure from several rooms that are fully-involved in fire IS SAVABLE. Firefighters are expected to stabilize fire conditions with a well placed, aggressive, offensive, interior fire attack, whenever possible. This effort should be supported with the resources and actions necessary to reduce fire extension and to bring the fire under control. However, it is recognized that an interior attack is not always possible. Therefore, several fire attack strategies exist based upon presenting conditions, giving firefighters several options to safely mitigate fire incidents. A tactical strategy should be selected, based on the presenting conditions, in accordance with a structured risk management plan.

OFFENSIVE STRATEGY: Interior attack and related support quickly bringing the fire under control.

DEFENSIVE STRATEGY: Exterior attack directed to first reduce fire extension and then bring the fire under control.

MARGINAL STRATEGY: Interior attack initiated to protect SAVABLE occupants, while defensive positions are set up on the exterior.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER SHOULD DETERMINE THE OPERATING MODE OR STRATEGY BASED UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE FIREGROUND FACTORS.:

The Incident Commander should match the strategy (and available resources) with the conditions. The Incident Commander controls overall incident scene safety by determining the proper strategy to be used.

While considering the level of risk to firefighter and occupants, the Incident Commander is responsible for determining the appropriate tactical strategy to be used at the fire scene based on the above factors. Once the appropriate strategy is initiated for the conditions that are present, it is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to ensure that all personnel are operating within the strategy. Managing fireground strategy is expected to start with the arrival of the first company and should be constantly monitored and evaluated throughout the entire incident by the Incident Commander. The chosen strategy can change with conditions (i.e. switch from offensive to defensive due to impending structural collapse) or because certain tactical benchmarks (i.e. a change from marginal to defensive after an "ALL CLEAR" has been given after searching for and removing trapped victims) are obtained.