



Rogers Fire Department
Tactics
502 Rescue
LAST REVISED: Aug 2009
Page 1 of 3



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide policy to incident commanders in fireground search and rescue.

POLICY

It is standard operating procedure to complete a primary search in all involved and exposed occupancies which can be entered. According to standard fireground operations and basic firefighting tactics, the performance of a primary search is paramount. Primary search is defined as the quick and systematic search of a building through all affected areas and verified the removal and/or safety of all occupants. Time is the critical factor in the primary search process. Successful primary search operations must necessarily be extended quickly during initial fire stages.

The rescue functions that follow lengthy fire control activities will be regarded tactically as a secondary search. Secondary search means a thorough search the interior of the fire area after initial fire control and ventilation activities have been completed. Secondary search should preferably be completed by different companies than those involved in primary search activities. Thoroughness, rather than time, is the critical factor in secondary search.

The completion of the primary search is reported utilizing the standard radio reporting term 'ALL CLEAR'. It is the responsibility of Command to coordinate primary search assignments, secure completion reports from the Search and Rescue Group or appropriate Division and to transmit the 'ALL CLEAR' report to Dispatch. Dispatch will record the time of this report from Command.

The stage of the fire becomes a critical factor that affects the rescue approach developed by command. The following items outline the basic Command approach to fire stages:

In nothing-showing situations or in very minor fire cases that clearly poses no life hazard, the Fire Attack Group or Investigation Group must conduct a primary search while attempting to locate the fire or hazard inside the building.

In smoke showing and flame showing situations, fire control efforts must be extended simultaneously with rescue operations in order to gain entry and control interior access to complete primary search. Oftentimes, when limited resources are initially available, the most effective means to affect rescue will be fire containment and control. Exceptions to this operating assumption would be suspected viable victims in defined locations.



Rogers Fire Department
Tactics
502 Rescue
LAST REVISED: Aug 2009
Page 2 of 3



Command and operating companies cannot depend upon reports from spectators to determine status of victims. Crews should utilize reports as to the location, number, and condition of victims as supporting primary search efforts and must extend and complete a primary search wherever entry is possible.

Command must consider the following factors in developing a basic rescue size-up:

1. Number, location and condition of victims
2. Effect fire has on victims
3. Capability of companies to enter building, remove/protect victims and control fire

Command must make the basic rescue decision:

Do we remove victims from the fire? **OR**
Do we remove the fire from the victims?

In some cases, occupants are safer in their rooms than moving through contaminated hallways and interior areas. Such movement may also impede interior firefighting.

Command must realistically evaluate the manpower required to actually remove victims and then treat their fire-affected bodies. In cases involving such multiple victims, Command must call for the timely response of adequate resource and quickly develop an organization that will both stabilize the fire and provide for the removal and treatment of the occupants.

Rescue efforts should be extended in the following order:

1. most severely threatened
2. the largest number (groups)
3. the remainder of the fire area
4. the exposed areas

Command must make specific primary search assignments to companies to cover specific areas of large, complex occupancies and maintain on-going control of such companies until the entire area is searched. When primary search companies encounter and remove victims, Command must assign other companies to continue to cover the interior positions vacated by those companies.

All initial attack efforts must be directed toward supporting rescue efforts and hose lines must be placed in a manner to control interior access, confine the fire, and protect avenues of escape. Hose line placement becomes a critical factor in these cases and



Rogers Fire Department

Tactics

502 Rescue

LAST REVISED: Aug 2009

Page 3 of 3



Command must realize that the operation is in a rescue mode. It may be necessary to operate in a manner that writes off the structure in order to buy rescue time.

Normal means of interior access (stairs, hall, interior public areas, etc.) should be utilized to remove victims whenever possible. Secondary means of rescue (platforms, ladders, fire escapes, etc.) must be utilized in their order of effectiveness.

Once the primary search has been completed and an 'ALL CLEAR' transmitted, Command must maintain control of access to the fire area; beware of occupants (and others) re-entering the building.

The most urgent reason for calling additional alarms is for the purpose of covering life safety. Command must develop a realistic rescue size-up as early as possible.