

RESCUE AT STRUCTURE FIRES

Purpose:

To provide an effective system for searching and marking searched areas at structure fires.

Guidelines:

- A. Upon arrival:
 - 1. Report on conditions.
 - 2. Size up the rescue problem.
 - 3. Request additional resources as needed.
 - 4. Institute a primary search and initial fire control operations.
- B. Primary Search:
 - 1. It shall be the policy of this department to perform a primary search in all involved and exposed occupancies, which can be entered. The Incident Commander must structure initial operations around the completion of the primary search. Primary search means companies have quickly gone through all affected areas and verified the removal and/or safety of all occupants.
 - 2. The Incident Commander 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, the Incident Commander must assign other companies to continue to cover the interior positions vacated by those companies.
 - 3. The Incident Commander and operating companies cannot depend upon reports from spectators to determine status of victims. Control forces should utilize reports as to the location, number, and condition of victims and supporting primary search efforts and must extend and complete a primary search wherever entry is possible.
 - 4. It should be the responsibility of the companies assigned to primary search to notify the Incident Commander when the primary search has been completed. Also advise findings.
 - 5. Once the primary search has been completed and transmitted, the Incident Commander must maintain control of access to the fire area; beware of occupants (and others) re-entering the building.
 - 6. When search is complete the room shall be marked with an "X" on the door or just outside of the room/area.
- C. Secondary Search: The rescue functions that follow lengthy fire control activities will be regarded tactically as presenting a secondary search.

Secondary search means that companies thoroughly search the interior of the fire area after initial fire control and ventilation activities have been completed. Other companies than those that were involved in primary search activities should complete secondary search. Thoroughness, rather than time, is the critical factor in secondary search.

D. Marking Search Rooms

1. Responsibilities: It shall be the responsibility of personnel completing the weekly vehicle check to make sure that one (1) lumber crayon is kept in the crew area of all fire suppression units.
2. Operations:
 - a. After a primary search has been performed, personnel shall place an "X" on or near the door and/or area searched.
 - b. When the second search is completed, an "O" shall be placed around the "X".