

Search & Rescue

Ins and Outs

Building Orientation

- 360 Degree walk around before entering
 - Mental Picture of _____
 - Doors/ Windows
 - Fire Location/Smoke Conditions
 - Is it occupied?
 - **CAN YOU GET OUT IF CONDITIONS WORSEN**
- Structure type
 - Residential/Public

Building Orientation Cont.

■ Occupancy

- Time of Day
- Type of Occupancy
- Vehicle in drive
- Bystanders or building occupants
 - Questions if somebody is said to be inside:
 - Where were they last seen?
 - How old are they?
 - Physical or mental handicapped?

Search Orientation

- What methods are used to stay oriented?
 - Left & Right Hand Search
 - Search lines
 - Used to anchor to objects that won't move
- How will partners stay in contact?
 - Discuss landmarks (type of room or hazards)
 - Voice contact in small room searches
 - Using tools, rope, or actual contact

Search Area Safety

- Evaluate structural stability
- Evaluate for backdraft or flashover conditions
- Continue to reevaluate the operation's safety
- Determine Structure type, possibility of collapse, and life safety risk.
- Check integrity of the floor in front of you at all times
- Check overhead for high heat or flames
- Do not risk firefighter safety for victims who cannot be saved
- If visibility is poor, consider ventilation before entry
- Always have a search plan prior to entry

Safe Search Principles

- Communications
 - With command, team members, attack crews
- Accountability
 - Look out for each other
- Team Work
- Air Supply
- Orientation
 - Keep a mental picture of where you are.

10 Commandments to Safe Primary Search and Rescue

1. Search with a partner
2. Conduct a thorough size up
3. Carry a tool and handlight
4. Use all of your PPE
5. Control the door
6. Have a plan
7. Stay in contact with a wall
8. Ensure people (IC) know where you are
9. Monitor fire conditions
10. Remain oriented

Procedures for Conduction S/R

- What factors dictate location of Primary Search?
- What area of a building are searched first?
- What is the role of Thermal Imaging in Primary & Secondary Search?
- What are the limitations of TIC's?

Primary Search

- Quick attempt to locate victims who are in danger.
- Time is critical
- Check all areas where victims might be.
- Rely on sight, sound, and touch
- Use hand tools to extend your reach
- Check probable areas that are tenable and safe for you to search quickly.

Prioritizing Search Areas

- How do you determine where a search will begin?
- What areas will be searched first?
- How is time of day a factor in your search?
- What other factors are included in your decisions on where to search?

1. Most severely threatened
2. The largest numbers (groups)

The exposed areas

Vent – Enter - Search

- Ventilate
 - Open up a small area of the structure as a bedroom by opening a window
- Enter
 - Through the window and proceed immediately to the door and ensure the door is closed to protect from fire
- Search
 - The room quickly and exit the way you came into the room

V-E-S Safety

- Communicate with IC
- Always work with a partner
- Watch out for fire spread
- Check integrity of room surface before entry
- Have a hose line available
- Don't enter too close to fire or in path of fire spread unless you can exit quickly.

Traditional Search

- Search in teams of two
- Remain in visual, voice, or physical contact
- At least one team member must have a radio and be in contact with the IC
- Maintain contact with a wall
- Progress through structure on same wall
- Make turns in same direction to return to the point that you entered from
- Notify IC when search of each area is complete

Search Progress

- “All Clear” is given once primary and secondary searches have been completed.
- Mark rooms that have been searched
- Give an example of a radio report after the primary search reveals no victims?
- What actions need to be taken upon finding a victim?

QUESTIONS?