

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Category: Emergency Operations

Issued: 2010.01 Updated:

Title: Rescue Operations

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Policy: 09-004

Issued By: F/C Spiegel

PURPOSE

When firefighters are faced with an incident requiring rescue operations, understanding the priorities, safety considerations, and the promptness of actions are critical to a successful rescue attempt.

SAFETY CONCERNS

When firefighters are faced with the opportunity to save lives, all factors related to the incident should be simultaneously considered. If a decision is made to initiate rescue operations the Incident Command and the company assigned the task must base decisions/tactics on the Risk Management Philosophy.

GUIDELINE

As part of firefighters duties assigned to the interior companies of a structure fire, is to search in all involved and exposed occupancies which can be entered. Command must structure initial operations around the completion of the primary search. Primary search means companies have quickly and systematically gone through all affected areas and verified the removal and/or safety of all occupants involved. Time is the critical factor in the primary search process. Successful primary search operations must necessarily be initiated and executed quickly and during initial stages of the fire.

Secondary search means that companies thoroughly 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 or secondary search is reported utilizing the standard radio reporting term "ALL CLEAR." Command and operating companies should use reliable reports of potential victims but cannot solely rely on those occupants, neighbors or passer-bys to ultimately determine status of victims. Primary and secondary searches must still be completed on an incident. The Incident Command should utilize reports as to the location, number, and condition of victims as factors in making primary and secondary search assignments.

Rescue operations should be prioritized 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 consider the following factors in developing a basic rescue size-up:

- #1** - Number, location and condition of victims
- #2** - Affect the fire has on the victims
- #3** - Capability of the firefighters to enter the building, remove/protect victims and control fire

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Category: Emergency Operations

Issued: 2010.01 Updated:

Title: Rescue Operations

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Policy: 09-004

Issued By: F/C Spiegel

Command must make the basic rescue decisions:

- Do we remove victims from fire?
- 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.
- Is there a need to increase the level of alarm to provide adequate staffing for rescue operations?

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 Command and all operating companies 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, halls, interior public areas, etc.) should be utilized to remove victims whenever possible. Secondary means of rescue (platforms, ladders, fire escapes, rope rescues) must be utilized in their order of effectiveness.