

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

SAFETY GRAM

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Safety Officer

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10 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR STRUCTURE FIRES

Acceptability of Risk

1. No building or property is worth the life of a firefighter.
2. All interior fire fighting involves an inherent risk.
3. Some risk is acceptable, in a measured and controlled manner.
4. No level of risk is acceptable where there is no potential to save lives or savable property.
5. Firefighters shall not be committed to interior offensive fire fighting operations in abandoned or derelict buildings.

Risk Assessment

1. All feasible measures shall be taken to limit or avoid risks through risk assessment by a qualified officer.
2. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to evaluate the level of risk in every situation.
3. Risk assessment is a continuous process for the entire duration of the incident.
4. If conditions change, and risk increases, change strategy and tactics.
5. No building or property is worth the life of a firefighter.

ICHIEFS Health and Safety Committee

Risk Assessment/Rule of Engagement

Fire Fighter injury/ Life Safety Risk	High Probability of Success	Marginal Probabil- ity of Success	Low Probability of Success
Low Risk	Initiate offensive operation. Continue to monitor risk factors.	Initiate offensive operations. Continue to monitor risk factors.	Initiate offensive operations. Continue to monitor risk factors.
Medium Risk	Initiate offensive operations. Continue to monitor risk factors. Employ all available risk control options.	Initiate offensive operations. Continue to monitor risk factors. Be prepared to go defensive operation if risk increase.	Do not initiate offensive operations. Reduce risk to fire fighters and actively pursue risk control options.
High Risk	Initiate offensive operations only with confirmation of realistic potential to save endangered lives.	Do not initiate offensive operations that will put firefighters at risk for injury or fatality.	Initiate defensive operations only.

Dispersion level Chart

- Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

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Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.
Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.
Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.
Ensure instructions are given and understood.
Obtain current information on status.
Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
Determine safety zones and escape routes.
Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.
Remain in control at all times.
Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

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