

Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Association

Model Operating Procedures

Tactical Priorities

Purpose

This procedure identifies three tactical objectives that must be completed in order to stabilize any fire situation, and establishes the priority order of these objectives. Although these objectives are listed and discussed separately, they should be regarded as closely interrelated and often must be accomplished simultaneously in order to assure achievement of each.

Tactical Priorities

The three tactical priorities in order of importance are:

- **Rescue:** activities required to protect occupants, remove those who are threatened, and treat the injured. These activities are accomplished in the *Primary Search*.
- **Fire Control:** activities required to stop expansion of the fire and to bring the fire under control.
- **Property Conservation:** salvage and overhaul activities intended to keep damage to property to a minimum

Benchmarks of Completion

The benchmark that a tactical objective has been achieved on the fireground is a transmission over the radio in standard terminology:

- **Rescue:** at the completion of the *Primary Search*, an "All Clear" will be transmitted.
- **Fire Control:** when forward progress of the fire has been stopped and the fire knocked down, a "Fire Under Control" will be transmitted.
- **Property Conservation:** when all salvage and overhaul operations have been completed, a "LOSS Stopped" will be transmitted.

These tactical objectives are listed in priority order, but it must be emphasized that actions to achieve one may be essential in the accomplishment of another. A notable example is the frequent need to achieve interior tenability with prompt ventilation and aggressive fire control actions in order to protect occupants and complete a *Primary Search*.

The tactical priorities of **Rescue**, **Fire Control**, and **Property Conversation** are clear, measurable and obtainable objectives. These objectives are considered complete when the benchmarks are transmitted.

Tactical Priorities In Context

The fire department and its Incident Commander have an on-going responsibility that is not completed when the tactical benchmarks have been declared. That on-going responsibility includes:

- *Firefighter Safety*
- *Customer Service*
- *Loss Control*

Our responsibility for these three considerations encompasses activities before, during and after the emergency response. Considerations to promote *Firefighter Safety* include physical fitness, training programs, standardized operations, and post incident reviews. Actions that promote *Customer Service* include developing a clear understanding of the importance of customer service in all of our members, acknowledging positive customer service actions, and constantly looking for ways to better serve our community. The concept of *Loss Control* goes beyond salvage and overhaul techniques to emphasize the importance of craftsmanship, pride in profession, and compassion for those we serve in their time of crisis.