

THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES: STRETCHING THE INITIAL HOSE LINE, PUTTING WATER ON THE FIRE



Take Action

It's everyone's job to focus on the First Five Minutes On Scene. Firefighters, company officers, incident commanders and fire chiefs each have specific and critical role in ensuring safe operations on scene.

Firefighter Roles

- Maintain Situational Awareness and conduct ongoing size-up
- Size-up your tactical area of operation. Firefighters should pause for a moment to look over their area of operation, evaluate their individual risk exposure, and determine a safe approach to completing their assigned tactical objectives.
- Building size-up including escape options, monitor changes and conditions. Determine the occupant survival profile. Firefighters should consider fire conditions in relation to possible occupant survival of a rescue event as part of their initial and ongoing individual risk assessment and action plan development.
- Ensure you know your company officer's expectations and follow orders. DO NOT risk your life for lives or property that cannot be saved. Extend LIMITED risk to protect SAVABLE property.
- Limit your risk exposure to a reasonable, cautious and conservative level when trying to save a building. Be VIGILANT about your actions and MEASURE risk to protect and rescue SAVABLE lives.
- Firefighters should manage search and rescue and supporting firefighting operations in a calculated, controlled and safe manner, while remaining alert to changing conditions, during high risk primary search and rescue operations where lives can be saved.

The First Five Minutes

Spend the week of June 19-25 focusing on the first five minutes of structural fire response at the chief, incident commander, company officer, and firefighter levels. Make sure all duty shifts are able to participate in the training throughout the week.

IAFC Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting

Section 1: Increasing Firefighter Survival provides lesson plans for firefighter survival. Section 3: Rules of Engagement provides resources for firefighters and incident commanders.

NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities

Sets forth a series of B.E.S.T Practices for Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes, Training.

Stand Down Resources

All resources are available at www.safetystanddown.org.

Position Roles

- Plan to have an adequate water supply, catch a hydrant or establish the water supply operation. Water supply is critical for all fireground operations and establishing that component is a priority.
- Make fire stream selection and hose part of your initial action plan. Effective stream selection and operation must be considered with size-up evaluation per your department's rules for stream operation. Choosing the most effective nozzle for getting water on the fire as rapidly as possible will increase the potential safety not only for victims but also for firefighters operating on scene.
- **When directed by the company officer to put water on the fire as quickly as possible, firefighters should initiate fire attack as soon as possible.**
- Fire stream placement from the exterior or interior should be directed to the most effective position and location. Flow path is now part of the fire service language; use it to your advantage. Door control and ventilation play an important role in putting water on the fire.
- It is everyone's job on the fireground to police hose kinks.
- Use effective communications techniques and ensure radio channels stay clear for emergency traffic. All firefighters and company officers must maintain constant awareness of all fireground radio communications on their assigned channel for progress reports, critical messages, or other information that may affect their risk level and safety.
- Do you know your role and actions when an emergency has been declared?
- Speak up as soon as you see issues which could affect the Incident Action Plan. Firefighters must pass on anything they see on the fireground so that the incident commander is getting information they need. All interior crews must be kept informed of changing fire conditions observed from the exterior by the incident commander or other command officers.

The Chief's Role in Supporting Firefighters

- Establish a training program to educate firefighters, line officers and crews on the different effects of stream patterns and angles. If possible, arrange for hands-on drills to be conducted according to NFPA 1403 standards.
- Do your SOPs reflect the terminology found in research? Do they support or hamper the decision-making efforts of your fire attack officers?
- Give your officers the latitude to make good decisions on water application.
- Do your officers understand the science behind upsetting the thermal balance in a compartmented fire? Smooth bore yields the least air movement or air entrainment, progressing to straight stream, narrow angle fog, to a wide-angle fog yielding the most air movement or entrainment.

Research:

Analysis of Changing Residential Fire Dynamics and its Implications on Firefighter Operational Timeframes
www.fstaresearch.org/resource/?FstarId=11513

NFPA, IAFC AND NVFC LAUNCH 2016 SAFETY STAND DOWN QUIZ SWEEPSTAKES

For the 2016 Safety Stand Down, the Fire Service Safety Stand Down Quiz SWEEPSTAKES is back! Hosted by the NFPA in coordination with the IAFC and the NVFC, this interactive online quiz reinforces the training messages behind this year's theme of the First Five Minutes of Fire Attack.

Test your knowledge today at www.nfpa.org/fireservicequiz.