



Des Plaines Fire Department



Fire Attack and Survival 2013

Times Have Changed...Here's Why Firefighting Should Too

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**FASTER FLASHOVER
MORE TOXIC SMOKE
LESS TIME TO REACT**

DISCOVER THE NEW SCIENCE OF FIRE SAFETY

More hazardous today than ever before, fire dynamics have changed due to synthetic materials and complex energy sources. With New Science, UL is working to mitigate emerging fire safety risks and safeguard innovation.

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Firefighter Safety and Survival for 2013 and Beyond

- ◇ **A rapid 360 degree size-up must be performed and communicated:**
 - Is there a **BASEMENT?**
 - What **HEAT/SMOKE/FIRE BEHAVIOR** observations do you see around the structure?
 - What **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION** hazards or lightweight construction cues are present?
- ◇ **ZERO VISIBILITY kills firefighters.**
 - If you are walking and can't see your feet then you must crawl
 - If you are crawling and loose sight of the floor; you should leave that area
- ◇ **10 Minute operational periods allow for safer assessments of the fire ground.**
 - If progress is not being made, consider tactical withdrawal
 - Companies operating on-air for greater than 10 minutes are nearing escape limits of air supply capability. Watch out!

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Today's Fire Attack and Fireground

- ◇ **Hit it HARD from the YARD**
 - ⇒ This may be your best offensive attack made from a defensive position
- ◇ **Kill the possibility of FLASHOVER**
 - ⇒ Cool gases before they kill you
- ◇ **You may not have time to recover from a bad or incomplete decision**
- ◇ **Control the Air Flow and you will control the fire**
 - ⇒ From ventilation to escalation of temperatures will occur within 80-160 seconds
- ◇ **If your flag is horizontal, you have ingredients for a wind driven fire event**

New Terms and Principles

- ◇ **Ventilation Limited Fire**
 - ⇒ A fire that can no longer grow due to lack of air but will reignite and probably grow faster and hotter with ventilation.
- ◇ **2800 sq/ft is the average size of a single family home built after 2008.**
 - ⇒ All will have lightweight materials and methods of construction.
 - ⇒ Many will have large open floor plans and space for gases to accumulate.
- ◇ **Opening the front door is ventilation**
 - ⇒ We would never send a crew into a vent hole on a roof; you may be doing the same thing at the front door
- ◇ **Think about the big picture**
 - ⇒ You work in an environment that is collapsing and will flashover

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