

CAL FIRE Safety Communication 2012-06

Structure Defense Tactical Action Terminology

Structure defense tactics are a vital part of perimeter control operations.

- ◆ Stopping fire spread significantly eliminates the fire's threat to structures.
- ◆ Perimeter control and structure defense should be done concurrently in an effort to reduce wildland urban interface loss.
- ◆ Connect contained points along the fire's perimeter – typically near the structures at risk ("Connect the Dots").
- **CHECK & GO** - Most appropriate action when no Safety Zone/Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) is present and the fire front impact is imminent. Conduct rapid evaluation to check for occupants and evaluate for follow up. **LEAVE promptly.**
- **PREP & GO** - Structure preparation can be safely completed prior to fire front impact. Potential fire activity is too dangerous to remain and/or there is no Safety Zone/TRA present. **LEAVE before escape routes are compromised.**
- **PREP & DEFEND** - Appropriate when a Safety Zone is nearby and TRA is present. Adequate time exists to prepare the structure for defense prior to fire front impact. Escape routes must be maintained.
- **FIRE FRONT FOLLOW** - Follow-up tactic after passage of the fire front. Involves searching for victims, perimeter control, hot spotting and ember control.
- **BUMP & RUN** - Resources move ahead of the fire front extinguishing spot fires and defending structures. Utilize extreme caution.
- **ANCHOR & HOLD** - Resources use large volume fire streams to extinguish structure fires, stop structure-to-structure ignitions, protect exposures, and control embers.
- **TACTICAL PATROL** - Resources remain mobile and continuously monitor assigned area after fire front passage. Involves aggressive mop up around structures.