

Critical Fireground Factors

Risk Management Philosophy

We will initiate every response under the assumption there are lives and property to save.

We will risk our lives a lot, in a calculated manner, to save savable lives.

We will risk our lives a little, in a calculated manner, to save property.

We will not risk our lives at all, for what is already lost.

Early recognition of these factors will help reduce the possibility of a Firefighter Injury or Entrapment on the Fireground.

- Active working Fire, and entry time will be delayed, or there is a loss of “time recognition” by crews or the IC.
- Multiple Companies have been assigned to enter through one entry point.
- Roof Division Companies are being driven off the roof as crews are preparing to go inside.
- Air is being drawn in rapidly in zero visibility and heat is banking down.
- Interior Crews can hear the fire burning above them, but they can’t see it.
- Interior Crews are working underneath a mezzanine.
- Crews feel “uncomfortable” with the situation they are in.
- A Crews SCBA low air alarm activates, and they are still searching for the seat of the fire.
- Interior Crews flow water for several minutes and make no progress on the fire.
- Interior Crews hear the sound of roof ventilation operations being conducted behind them.
- Crews are unable to communicate with the Incident Command or Division / Group Supervisors.
- A Crew or crewmember is in trouble, and fails to recognize it. A call for Emergency Traffic is delayed or not initiated.
- Crews are deep inside a Commercial Building with 1 ¾” lines rather than 2 ½” lines.
- Prior to building entry, Fireground Companies and the IC fail to recognize basic construction features that should influence decision making and actions.
- Crews and Commanders are not following the “order model” for communications, or are using terms that are unclear and send mixed messages.
- Company Officers are not monitoring the air supply status of their crews, and are not practicing proper air management techniques.
- All members operating on the Fireground fail to evaluate and apply the “Risk Management Philosophy” to their assignment.