

# **Yakima County Fire District 12 – Standard Operating Guidelines**

## **SOG 3-4 - Structural Risk Assessment**

REFERENCE: WAC 296-305-05001(5)

Policy: 1201

### **1.0 General**

**1.1 Purpose** The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to provide a guideline for District personnel in assessing risk when performing interior structure firefighting.

**1.2 Scope.** This standard operating guideline shall apply to all members of Yakima County Fire District 12.

**1.3 Enforcement.** Enforcement of this standard operating guideline is the responsibility of the District's officers. Any person deviating from the provisions of this guideline may be required, at the discretion of the officer in charge, to submit in writing, within five (5) calendar days, an explanation for such deviation to the requesting officer who will forward the explanation up the chain of command for further review.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

**2.1 Hazard:** Something with the potential to cause harm.

**2.2 Risk:** Potential harm from a particular hazard. Risk reflects both the likelihood that harm will occur and its severity.

**2.3 Risk Assessment:** To set or determine the possibility of suffering harm or loss, and to what extent.

**2.4 Risk Management:** The development of action plans which take present and potential risks into consideration.

### **3. PROCEDURES**

- 3.1 The Incident Commander shall integrate risk management into the regular functions of incident command.
- 3.2 The concept of risk management shall be used on the basis of the following principles:
  - a. Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of members shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save endangered lives. (Risk a lot for a lot.)
  - b. Activities that are routinely employed to protect property shall be recognized as inherent risks to the safety of members, and actions shall be taken to reduce or avoid the risks. (Risk a little for a little.)
  - c. Risk to members shall not be acceptable when there is no possibility to save lives or property. (Risk nothing for nothing.)
  - d. The possibility that a structure may be occupied shall be assessed by the IC regardless of time of day or occupancy.
  - e. Every situation is unique and an all-encompassing definition for undue risk is impossible. The Incident Commander shall use discretion on a situational specific basis. It is not the intent of this Guideline to determine or mandate how an Incident Commander will react in every situation.

### **4. SCOPE**

- 4.1 Safety is the responsibility of all personnel.
- 4.2 The Incident Commander shall evaluate the risk to members with respect to the purpose and potential results of their actions and maintain a current awareness of the risk.
- 4.3 Risk assessments shall be periodically reviewed and updated.

## **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:**

N/A

### **REMEMBER *How We Do Business:***

- *Within a structured plan, we may risk our lives to protect savable lives.*
- *Within a structured plan, we may risk a little to protect savable property.*
- *We will NOT risk our lives to save lives or property that are already lost.*

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