

Taking it to the Streets™

Informational Aide
Building Construction, Hazards,
Methods and Factors affecting Field
Operations and Firefighter Safety

A Structural Anatomy™ Building Construction Series

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Building Construction, Command Risk Management and Firefighter Safety

Core Fundamentals

By addressing Building Construction, Command Risk Management and Firefighter Safety collectively numerous benefits can be attained related to increased fire ground effectiveness. Recognizing the core fundamental relations suggests increased operational effectiveness through improved incident action planning, enhanced strategic and tactical assignments and task level deployment through the greater understanding and awareness of building performance, deficiency inhibitors and extension avenues may be achieved.

Integrating these domains under the area of study related to Building Construction; the studies of the Anatomy of Building Construction, Command Risk Management, Fire Dynamics and Fire Behavior, Firefighting Principles and Practices, Firefighter Safety, Situational Awareness Practices and Dynamic Risk Assessment can be fully incorporated to afford the greatest benefit from cross-disciplined inherent operational factors, best practices, lessons-learned, influential, dominant and prominent relationships and support improved decision-making, incident projection and incident mitigation.

It's all about understanding buildings and integrating; construction, occupancies, fire dynamics and fire behavior, risk, analysis, the art and science of firefighting, safety conscious work environments and effective and well-informed incident command management. This is what it's going to take to truly provide a means for "everyone to go home".

The Mantras of Building Construction

A variety of themes and mantras have been prompted to support various initiatives for the past thirty years related to building construction and in the support of firefighter safety improvements. Varied focus on Building Construction issues, operational factors and safety, changes in the principles of size-up and its evolution into risk management and the command decision-making process over the years. Common voices over decades of efforts and dialog. Some examples include:

- Brannigan, "The Building Is the Enemy" (1971)
- Dunn, "No Building Is Worth the Life of a Firefighter" (1985)
- Brunacini, "We will Risk" Doctrine (1985)
- Brennan, "Make the Building Behave" (1995)
- IAFC, "Risk Assessment & Rules of Engagement" (2001)
- Goldfeder, "Everyone Goes Home" (2001)
- NFFF, "Sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives" (2004)
- Naum, "Building Knowledge = Firefighter Safety" (2008)

The defining questions you should be asking yourself are;

1. What do you know about building construction?
2. Do you have a knowledge base on fire dynamics and fire behavior?
3. Are you implementing situational awareness into your operations and assignments?
4. Are you utilizing appropriate and continuous risk assessment (RA) and analysis?
5. Do the risk assessment indicators influence your incident action plan AND modify it when needed?
6. Does firefighter safety come first? Or does tactical "fireground entertainment" permeate your structural fire operations?
7. Do Individuals practice and deploy the following tactics, contrary to appropriate risk management?,

TACTICAL AMUSEMENT

- 1: of or relating to structural fireground tactics: as a (1) a means of **amusing** or **entertaining** during fire suppression, support tasks or operations that places personnel at **risk**
- 2: the condition of being **amused** while engaging in fire suppression, support tasks or operations that places personnel at **risk**
- 3: pleasurable **diversion** while engaging in fire suppression, support tasks or operations: **entertainment**; that places personnel at **risk**

TACTICAL DIVERSION

- 1: the **reckless** act or an instance of **diverting** from an assignment, task, operation or activity While engaging in fire suppression, support tasks or operation for the sake of **amusing** or **entertainment**; that places personnel at **risk**
- 2: the **reckless** act of self determined task operations that **diverts** or **amuses** from de fined risk assessment and incident action plans; that places personnel at **risk**

TACTICAL CIRCUMVENTION

- 1: to **deliberately** manage to get around especially by ingenuity or approach that **diverts** for the purpose of **amusing**; assignment, operations or tasks that countermand or **disregard** defined risk assessment and incident action plans; that places personnel at **risk**

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"Discuss the concept of "Fireground Entertainment" related to a specific incident operations and company level situations related to building type, occupancy and operational strategic or tactical tasks." Is this happening in your organization, if so, how does it affect firefighter safety?"