

Operating Guideline # 704

Survivability Profiling

October 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to set out the requirement for the IC to consider the survivability profile for all structure fires before committing crews to interior operations under marginal conditions.

GUIDELINE:

1. The IC must take a “risk vs benefit” assessment approach to all incidents and utilize the departments “Risk Management Philosophy” in guiding incident decisions at the strategic level.

- We will risk our lives in a calculated manner - if necessary - to protect savable lives.
- We will take minimal risks and in a calculated manner, to protect savable property.
- We will not risk our lives at all to protect lives or property that is/are already lost.

2. Where the IC elects to conduct an offensive or marginal fire attack operation, he/she shall assess fire conditions and consider the “survivability profile” of any occupants who might still be inside the high hazard (hot) zone. (Given the smoke and fire conditions presenting, and the passage of time since the fire began, are occupants still inside likely to be alive and savable?)

3. If rescue operations are contemplated, the IC shall assess the following:
- a) The ability to maintain safe ingress and egress routes for both firefighters and occupants.
 - b) available (verified responding or on-scene) fire department resources including the ability to perform actions necessary to support the rescue effort including fire control/suppression, R.I.T. operations, water supply, ventilation etc.

4. Where the IC determines that there is no reasonable prospect that persons who may be trapped inside a burning structure are savable, he/she should not commit crews to rescue operations.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- OG 701 Role and Responsibilities of the Incident Commander
- OG 221 Risk Management Philosophy