

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**SECTION: Rescue Operations
SUBJECT: Rescue at Structure Fires
REVISED: 7/2013**

PURPOSE:

To provide an effective system for searching areas at structure fires.

POLICY:

Anytime a structure is involved with fire, it shall be the determination of the incident commander to make a primary and secondary search of the structure. This determination can be made by initial reports of people trapped, or the unaccountability of the structures occupants.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Upon Arrival:
 - 1. Report conditions.
 - 2. Size-up any rescue problems.
 - 3. Request additional resources needed. Annex B contains mutual aid alarm assignments with Jefferson County CAD.
 - 4. Institute a primary search and initial fire control operations.
- B. Primary Search:
 - 1. It is standard to extend a primary search in all involved and expected occupancies which can be entered. The officer in command must structure initial operations around the completion of the primary search. Primary search means crews have quickly gone thru all affected areas and verified the removal and/or safety of all occupants.
 - 2. The incident commander must make specific primary search assignments to crews to cover specific areas of large complex occupancies until the entire area is searched. When primary search crews encounter and remove victims, the incident commander must assign other crews to continue to cover the interior positions vacated by those crews.
 - 3. The incident commander and operating crews cannot depend upon reports from spectators to determine status of victims.
 - 4. It should be the responsibility of the crews assigned to primary search to notify the incident commander when primary search has been completed. Also advise findings.
 - 5. Once the primary search has been completed, the incident commander must maintain control of access to the fire area. Be aware of occupants trying to re-enter the structure.
- C. Secondary Search The rescue functions that follow lengthy fire control activities will be regarded tactically as presenting a secondary search. Secondary search means that crews thoroughly search the interior of the fire area after initial fire control and ventilation activities have been completed. Secondary search should preferably be completed by

different crews than those involved in primary search activities. Thoroughness, rather than time is the critical factor in secondary searches.

- D. Marking searched rooms. Primary searched rooms will be marked with a piece of red tape. Secondary searched rooms will be marked with a second piece of tape.

OTHER:

A listing of mutual aid alarm assignments is on file at Jefferson County Dispatch Center CAD, and will be attached to this manual as Annex-B.