

Fire Department Safety (Revision 2)

Firefighting is one of the most hazardous professions, requiring quick decision-making, physical endurance, and constant awareness of surroundings. Whether you're a firefighter or working alongside fire departments during emergencies, understanding and practicing safety protocols is essential to prevent injuries and save lives. RMI provides many different training resources for the Fire Department. Below is key information as it pertains to being safe while responding to fires.



It is important to not send firefighters into a fire if they are **not really sure we can bring them back out**. Taking the opportunity to stop and ask questions is crucial to ensure the safety of those responding to fires:

1. Is the building vacant?
2. Are people trapped inside, and **CAN** they be **SAVED**?
3. Are we fighting this fire to protect **LIVES** and property or to protect property alone?



Performing a brief Risk Assessment prior to entry into a building with others involved in the process can go a long way with the safety of all those involved. After the Risk Assessment is performed, it is important to continue with scene awareness. Staying alert to changing conditions such as the fire's behavior, structural integrity, and weather conditions is very important to be mindful of. Before entering any building, it is important to assess the exit routes and address any backup plans if plans change. Having people on the outside of the scene/building allows for effective communication in case the fire worsens, and a "Mayday" event occurs.

While conducting the Risk Assessment, the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be evaluated. The proper PPE can be a helmet, fire gear, gloves, boots, and SCBA respirator. Regular



inspection of PPE should be done before and after use to ensure there is no damage that could cause injury. Proper tools also need to be inspected before and after use to ensure they are adequate for the firefighter's safety and public's safety before rescue. Keeping equipment and tools clean and properly stored allows for longevity.



Firefighting in high temperatures can lead to severe heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Those on the outside of the building must actively keep track of those inside to ensure they are not exposed to heat for a long period of time. Drinking water regularly and taking breaks in cool areas are ways to combat the heat stress.



Conclusion

Every firefighter and support personnel plays a critical role in ensuring that operations run smoothly and safely. By staying committed to safety protocols, maintaining equipment, and looking out for one another, we reduce risks and increase the chances of successful outcomes during emergencies.

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