

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.18

RESCUES AT STRUCTURE FIRES

Any time a structure is involved with fire, it shall be the policy of UCFD's to make a primary and secondary search and notify command upon completion of each

1. Upon Arrival
 - a. Report on conditions.
 - b. Size up the rescue problem.
 - c. Request additional resources as needed.
 - d. Institute a primary search and initial fire control operations.
2. Primary Search
 - a. It is UCFD's policy to extend a primary search in all involved and exposed occupancies that can be entered. The Officer in Command must structure initial operations around completion of the primary search. Primary search means companies have quickly gone through all affected areas and verified the removal and/or safety of all occupants. First priority in search is the highest risk areas (i.e. Fire floor, bedrooms at night when civilians should be in bed, etc.).
 - b. The IC must make specific primary search assignments to companies to cover specific areas of large complex occupancies and maintain on-going control of such companies until the entire area is searched. When primary search companies encounter and remove victims, the IC must assign other companies to continue to cover the interior positions vacated by those companies.
 - c. The IC and operating companies cannot depend upon reports from spectators to determine status of victims. Operating companies should utilize reports as to the location, number, and condition of victims and supporting primary search efforts. They must extend and complete a primary search whenever entry is possible.
 - d. It should be the responsibility of the company's assigned primary search to notify the IC when primary search has been completed. Also advise findings (i.e. heavy smoke and heat on second floor).
 - e. Once the primary search has been completed and transmitted, incident commander must maintain control of access to the fire area; beware of occupants (and others) re-entering the building.
 - f. If a victim is found notify command and remove victim from building or to a safer area in building. Give medical attention as soon as possible and as conditions warrant. Turn over to medical personnel.
- 3.

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Secondary Search

- a. The rescue functions that follow lengthy fire control activities will be regarded tactically as presenting a secondary search.
- b. Secondary search means that companies thoroughly search the interior of the fire area after initial fire control and ventilation activities have been completed.
- c. Different companies than those involved in primary search activities should complete the secondary search. Thoroughness, rather than time, is the critical factor in secondary search.