
**Mastering Fireground Command**

**Calm the Chaos!  
Awareness Level**

**By  
Battalion Chief  
Anthony Kastros**



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**Objectives**

1. More thorough size up and victim profiling
2. Clearer communications with less radio traffic
3. Proactive and decentralized incident command
4. Rapid and agile deployment of ICS
5. More civilian rescues
6. Better service to the community
7. Better succession planning and promotional training

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**Lesson 1**

**“Begin With the End In Mind”**  
*Stephen Covey,  
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

[El Camino save.MP4](#)

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 Task and Tactical Views

Walk through apt.MP4

C side approach and VES.MP4

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 Lesson 2

Incident Levels  
&  
The Tactical Gap



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 NIOSH TOP 5  
LINE OF DUTY DEATH **OPERATIONAL**  
CAUSAL FACTORS

**Lack of or improper...**

- Risk assessment
- Incident Command
- Accountability
- Communications
- Established SOP's or failure to follow SOP's

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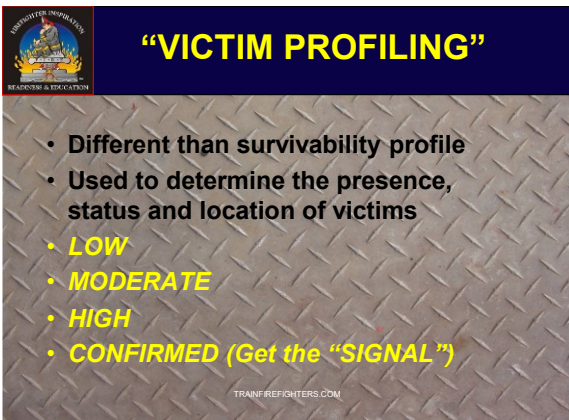
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## Low

- Credible Occupant Tells You Everyone is Out
- Ask: "How do you know?"



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## Moderate

- During the Day
- No One/No RP On Scene



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## High

- Multi-Family Dwellings During the Day/Night
- Houses at Night



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**Confirmed**

- Dispatch or Credible RP on Scene Confirms
- Get the SIGNAL

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**Get the "SIGNAL"**

- Species (Is it human?)
- Incapacity (Beyond unconscious)
- Gender
- Number (How many victims?)
- Age (Predictable behavioral patterns)
- Location (Saves time!)

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**It All Starts with Size Up "FPODP"**

- Facts
  - What you know for sure
- Probabilities
  - Educated guess to extent of threat
- Own Situation
  - Current or responding resource level
- Decision
  - Strategy
- Plan of Operation
  - Tactics

*Not the same as an "arrival report"*

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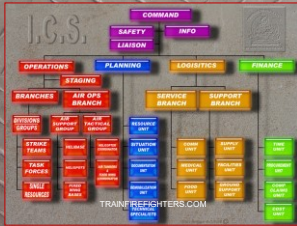
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## Lesson 4

# Incident Planning & Organizing



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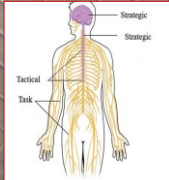
## Incident/Tactical Alignment

### • Incident Priorities:

- Life
- Incident Stabilization
- Property/Environment

### • Strategies

- Offensive
- Combination
- Defensive



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## Out of Alignment!!!

[Samoa.MP4](#)

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**Tactical Supervisor**  
(Division/Group Supervisor)

**Jobs:**

- Tactical supervision
- Accountability
- Communication
- Ongoing size up
- Safety Officer

**Need to Know:**

- Boundaries
- Resources
- Objectives

**KSA's:**

- Hostile
- Agile
- Mobile

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Tactical Supervision – Townhome Fire

[Olivebranch.MP4](#)

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**Mastering Fireground Command**  
**Calm the Chaos!**

**The Textbook**

**By**  
**Anthony Kastros**  
**&**  
**Brian Brush**



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## Mastering Fireground Command Calm the Chaos!

- ✓ **Compliant with:**
- ✓ **FESHE**
- ✓ **NIMS/ICS**
- ✓ **NFPA**
- ✓ **ULFSRI**
- ✓ **32 Contributing Authors**
- ✓ **560 Pages**
- ✓ **Victim-Focused**
- ✓ **Decentralized Command**



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## Simple and Rapid ICS Deployment

### The ICS Formula for Pre-Loaded Templating:

+ Building  
+ Conditions  
+ Resources  
= ICS

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## Fire Attack & Rescue Groups

<p><b>“Fire Attack”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b></li> <li>- Locate</li> <li>- Confine</li> <li>- Extinguish</li> </ul>	<p><b>“Rescue”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b></li> <li>- Search</li> <li>- Locate</li> <li>- Remove</li> </ul>
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*2:1 span of control  
Can be used for known rescues  
or larger homes*

www.trainfirefighters.com

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## Lesson 5



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## IT'S ABOUT LIFE



### Ours and Theirs...

- Life and Death Decisions
- Limited Information
- Compressed Time Frame

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## We Can Do Better



### Punchlines...

- "The fire went out and nobody got hurt."
- "Any water on fire is good."
- "When the fire goes out, the problem goes away."

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**Trends of the Past 20 Years**



- RIC
- TIC
- Transitional/Indirect Attack

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**Objectives**



**For the New Fireground:**

- Rapid and appropriate risk/gain management
- Bridge the Tactical Gap
- Tools and tactics to reduce reflex time to rescue civilian victims

= Save More Savable Lives

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**Modern Fires are More Deadly**



- Modern fires are killing civilian victims faster than ever before
- CO and HCN are the two most common and deadliest fire gases
- CO displaces O<sub>2</sub> and adheres to hemoglobin 212 times faster than O<sub>2</sub>
- HCN paralyzes the respiratory system

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FirefighterRescueSurvey.com 

- Victims found and removed within six minutes of fire department arrival have the greatest survivability rate.
- The more we know about the location of the victims, the higher the survivability rate.
- It is more likely that a crew without a hoseline will successfully find and remove a victim who survives.
- Most victims are not found behind closed doors.
- The victims found behind closed doors have a higher survivability rate.

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FirefighterRescueSurvey.com 

- The highest number of rescues (64%) within a 12-hour window occur between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The highest three-hour window is between 3:00 and 6:00 a.m. (24%). Our period of longest likely turnout time also is the period of greatest potential for rescue.
- Fires in single-family dwellings with a victim will, on average, have more than one victim.

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FirefighterRescueSurvey.com 

- Fires in apartment with victims will, on average, have three victims.
- Victims have an eight times higher survivability rate if they are found pre-knockdown.
- VES as a search tactic has the highest survival rate for the civilian at 86%.

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## Four Critical Objectives Are Required to Save Lives

- Fire Attack
- Rescue
- Vent
- Medical



\* Specifics Tactics are Situational

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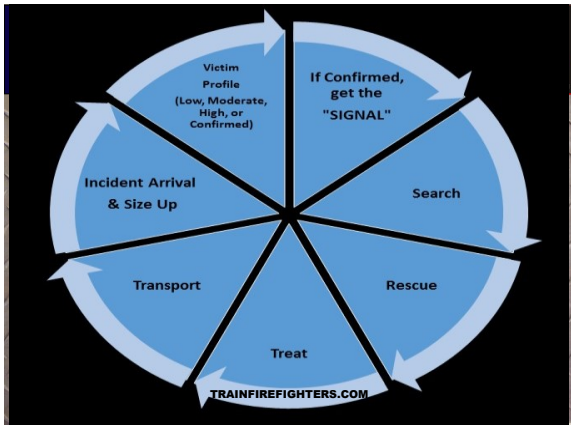
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## Could This Happen to You?

[Marcella Ave Apartment fire with Multiple Rescue](#)  
[Helmet Cam Alameda County Fire Department.mp4](#)

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**Training Saves Seconds,  
Seconds Save Minutes,  
Minutes Save Lives**



- Rig Check/Set Up
- Routing and Response
- Apparatus placement
- Step Off for Rescue
- Fireground Pace
- Tank Transfers

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**Life Saving Tactics**



- Victim Profiling
- Vent-Enter-Search
- Window Cut Down
- Multiple Search Points/Pincer
- Line Placement for Life
- Vent for Life
- Apparatus Placement for Life
- Tank Transfers

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**Vent - Enter - Search**



- The search crew has determined it is a GO with a reliable report from a parent.
- Communicate that you will be doing Vent, Enter, Search to a specific location.



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## Vent - Enter - Search



- **VENT:** Assess
  - Go/Clear
  - No Go (Flashover?)
  - Judgment call (why we are here)
- **ENTER:** Sound, Sweep and Go
  - ISOLATE: Close the door
  - Sweep hallway outside door
- **SEARCH:** Door back to window
  - 2 firefighters min
  - 1 in/1 out

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## Multiple Search Points/ Pincer Search



- Front/Back Doors
- Windows
- Walls
- **Ensure that you have a line on the fire!!!**

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## Trainfirefighters.com Email List



SCAN ME

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PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR CLASS EVALUATION – THANK YOU!



FD&C INTERNATIONAL

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CAPCE EMS CE APP INSTRUCTIONS

- [Click here](#)



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**Thank you.**

**God Bless**  
**You and your precious families;**  
**Those you serve,**  
**And those you lead!**

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