

	Dothan Fire Department POLICY	
	Policy Name:	Risk Management
	Policy Number:	19
	Standard:	IAFC, Blue Card, Fire Command
	Implementation Date:	June 1, 2021
	Date of Last Revision:	June 1, 2021
	Authority:	Larry H. Williams, Jr, Fire Chief

I. PURPOSE

Operating at Emergency Incidents poses an inherent risk of injury – or worse, death. The purpose of this document is to describe the operating policy regarding risk assessment and safety management at all emergency incidents.

II. POLICY

When considering the SURVIVAL profile of any victims, members must consider the conditions present in the “compartment” or area of fire conditions or other conditions affecting survival. A fire in a rear bedroom of a house, with smoke throughout the house may allow a survivable environment if a search and rescue effort is initiated quickly. We may extend risk, in a calculated manner, with these conditions.

A significant fire in a residence with dense smoke under pressure to floor level throughout the building likely means victims could not survive. A very cautious, calculated rescue and fire control operation would be warranted.

A well-involved building would likely represent a zero survivability profile. Similar conditions in an abandoned building would indicate little survivability and little property to be saved and members should avoid an offensive fire fight.

Victims buried by a trench collapse or under water for 10 minutes or more, would be unlikely to survive therefore an extremely cautious and a well-planned, safe, recovery operation is required.

Rescuers should consider notification time, dispatch processing time, response time, and time on- scene as part of the calculation.

“Actions in a calculated manner” require:

1. Continuous use of Situational Awareness in making strategic decisions
2. Incident Command established at every incident
3. Proper personal protective equipment by everyone in IDLH
4. Accountability system established and incident documentation by IC
5. Safety procedures in place with Safety Officer performing Safety duties
6. Continuous risk assessment by all members with CAN reports
7. Uninterrupted communications to share strategic decisions made by all

It must be clear to all companies, working at all levels of the incident command system, that the incident strategy and plans are focused on either savable lives or savable property. The recognition through an effective size-up that savable lives may be present at an incident and that the conditions exist that the fire crews can provide a rescue is a situation that has the greatest allowable threshold for risk.

The questions that are necessary to determine this level of risk are:

- Is it reasonable to believe that there are savable lives present at this incident?
- Are there any survivable environments or compartments at this incident?
- Do we have the resources and ability to affect a rescue and survive to complete it?

For fire incidents, a quick and overwhelming attack on the fire, from any reasonable position, may be the best thing for mitigating significant risk and allowing the opportunity for rescue and firefighter survivability. If the incident size-up has determined neither, savable lives or savable property are present because of the conditions, **no or very limited risk shall be taken within a defensive strategy.**

This risk management policy is effective and necessary for all types of hazards and incidents (from simple to complex incidents).

Special Note:

*The DFD has adopted the IAFC Rules of Engagement (ROE) as our basis for Risk Management and **all** personnel must adhere to the rules of engagement for firefighter survival and **all** incident commanders will utilize the incident commander's rules of engagement for firefighter safety when operating at any incident. In addition, the DFD has adopted the Fallen Firefighter Foundation's 16 Life Safety Initiatives to promote safe operations so "Everyone Goes Home!"*

III. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief reserves the authority to amend, modify, or change this policy.

IV. APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is adopted and approved on this 1st day of June 2021.

Signature of File

Larry H. Williams, Jr.

Fire Chief

DOTHAN FIRE DEPARTMENT