WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

SEARCHES

Vent - Enter - Isolate – Search

VICTIM REMOVAL

Ver. 14-1

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Search and Rescue

SEARCH– A **planned** method in which a team(s) enter a structure to look for Victim(s) and Location of the Fire

RESCUE – Once a Victim is found – the Rescue involves removing them to safety.

Search & Rescue is one of the most hazardous duties a firefighters will perform. **WHY ?**

- Statistics have shown , most fire ground fatalities and injuries have occurred during Search and Rescue operations.
- Search and Rescue is a primary responsibility and usually the first duty we will perform on the fire ground.
- Firefighters must be able to conduct an effective **Search** and if a victim is found, have the ability to efficiently **Rescue** them.

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Although firefighters may realize Search and Rescue is one of the most important function of the fire service, most typically fail to realize that this duty goes beyond just Search & Rescue of victim.

Nearly every operation performed by firefighters can potentially relate back to that initial Search & Rescue operations, from fire attack, ventilation, laddering … The Search and Rescue team does the **Reconnaissance** (gaining data about the incident) which enabling the IC's to set an Appropriate action plan for the event.

The IC doesn't have X-Ray eyes and can't see what's happening on the inside of the building, but this initial search team can, so in essence, the search team's report help set the table for a effective and safe operation.

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A successful and effective search operations need to have the following:

- Sufficient **manpower** - one who can complete the task effectively & safely
  (not just in quantity but also quality)
- Proper **equipment** – Search rope, webbing, appropriate FE tools, TIC …
- Information about the situation – Size Up, On scene data ("my mother's in bedroom")
- Good **communications** – with *Command* & Amongst the *search* team
- A logical **plan** – possible coordinated with suppression operations

(the lines going to right holding fire in kitchen, while search team goes left to the bedrooms)

- **Training**, discipline and determination to carry out the plan.

*But the most important thing firefighters should consider when performing any search and rescue operation is **Personal safety**.*
Know where you are in a building, work as a teams, have radio communications, try to have at least two means of egress from a structure and understand your not saving someone who is already dead.

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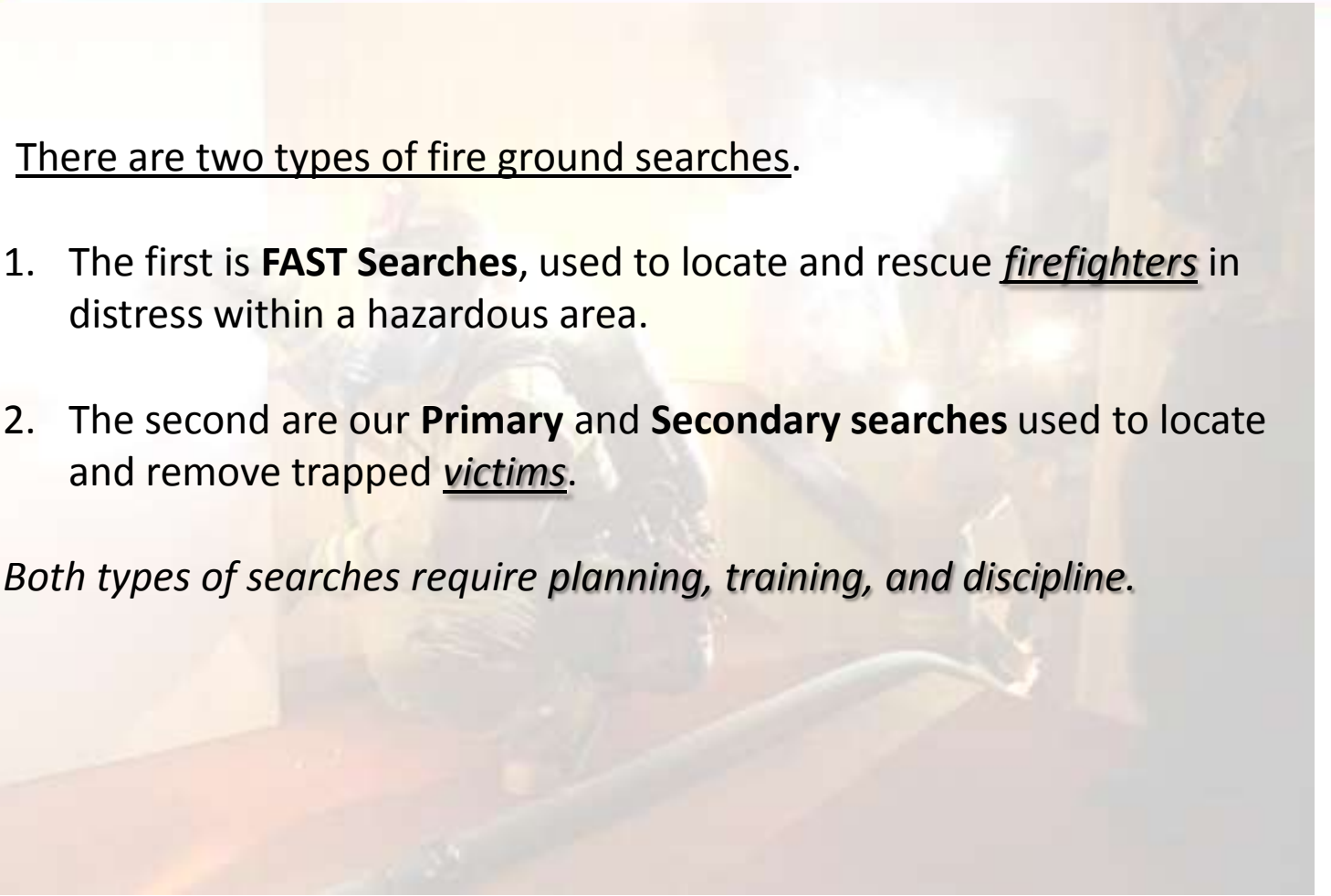

There are two types of fire ground searches.

1. The first is **FAST Searches**, used to locate and rescue ***firefighters*** in distress within a hazardous area.

2. The second are our **Primary** and **Secondary searches** used to locate and remove trapped ***victims***.

Both types of searches require planning, training, and discipline.

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Primary vs. Secondary Searches

Primary Searches:

- searches for Life and the location of Fire
- this search is rapid, thorough and systematic – (*there is always a plan*)
- influenced by the fire, heat and smoke conditions in a room/area
- typically done prior to application of water, with vents controlled

Primary searches are done **quickly** *with* ***due regard to Personal Safety***

Secondary Searches:

- done by a different crew then the crew performing the primary search
- this search is a thorough and painstakingly **complete** search for life in **all areas**: inside structure, (*rooms, basement/cellars, shafts, elevators, etc*.) and includes the outside perimeter of the building (*did someone jump and is now laying in the large bush ?*)
- purpose is to ensure no possible victims are overlooked
- time is not important, **accuracy is** !

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Approximately 9% of firefighter deaths on the fire ground result from performing **Primary Searches**.

Investigations into these deaths have identified common reoccurring situations:

1) Firefighters becoming lost / disoriented / running low on air or totally out.

2) Falling objects including structural collapse and/or entanglement.

3) Fire conditions including fire cutting off egress and flashover.

Many of these deaths may have been preventable.

Proper training and effective communication is the best defense against a firefighter injury and death.

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RISK versus REWARD

We will Risk a lot to Save a lot
We will Risk little to Save Little

Example:

Will we go above fire floor when the living room couch is burning and the occupants are telling us their 4 year old son is in a 2nd floor bedroom?
Little Risk - Great Reward

Will we enter a room which has a mattress burning with just our can when we see a victim on the floor in our TIC? **Big Risk – Big Reward**

Will we enter a burning basement with fire rolling up stairs without a line to save a possible missing victim in the structure? **Big Risk – Little Reward**

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Search & Rescue -

As With All Fire Operations,

begins with our Size - Up:

- Did we arrive to heavy smoke and fire showing?
- Are there reports of people trapped or are people yelling for help?
- Is there information from neighbors or tenants about people who have not yet escaped ?
- Is the report "everyone is out" accurate?

DON'T GET TUNNEL VISION ON THE SAVE !

Size up what you have, a few steps to your right or left can give you a totally different perspective of things !

There's much more going on things that can:

- 1. Make your job easier and
- 2. Possible save your life!

View from 1 side

25' to the Right

View from 1- 4 Corner

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Size up - The Structure:

Count the floors (number levels above grade)
Note which way the wind is blowing (side 1,2,3 4)?
How much smoke is visible & what color is it?
Window, doors, fire escapes, porches ... Note them!
Note where Fire & Smoke is Heaviest & Visible
Has the fire already vented ?

All Very Important and Will effect your Search/Rescue!

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Size up - The Structure:

Side 1 **Same House** Side 3

What is going to be considered the 1st floor?
The members in the rear may perceive the 1st floor differently then the members on the front lawn .

Know this before you enter the structure,
*it could save **your** life when your the one calling for assistance later.*

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Size up - The Structure:

Here we can see:

- Fire has already vented
- Fire has not flashed
- When you enter at the front door your already above the fire floor
- Wind coming from 2/3 corner
- What is being considered 1st floor?
- Plenty of windows
- Possible occupant outside on lawn who we can get more info from:
  - Is everyone out ?
  - Where did fire start, if know?

" *I was fixing a burst pipe in the basement, I got everyone out, oh and by the way I left my 10 lb acetylene soldering tank* "

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Size up - The Structure:

The newly learned info, of what we physically see and and hear about the structure, (cars in driveway, open front door, open ground floor windows, neighbor saying someone still inside…) along with our learned history from our past *experiences of the structure, such as:*

- *Type of Building: Levitt Cape, Split Level, High Ranch …,*
- *Elderly or handicapped Occupants from a past signal 9*
- *Colliers Mansion type conditions …*

These items will all help us formulate a Plan for our Searches.

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Size up - The Structure

What is this photo telling us:

It's Day Time –
Where may we find occupants?

Fire is below Grade –
What will smoke/heat conditions be on the level of enter (at the front door)

The Fire has not flashed but has a good air source - what can we expect in the very near future?

Can we get info from the person on the front lawn - if so, how reliable will it be?

Snow may delay getting water on the fire for a bunch of reasons – how may this effect us as the search team?

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Immediate Rescues:

What if we arrive to see victim(s) "out the window".

This becomes an **immediate** concern, the clock is already ticking on these people !

Manpower & OIC will dictate how they will be addressed.

Verbal Contact with them will help you do an assessment and will help you to come up with a plan of action.

Typically these people will be address and rescued immediately.

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Search:

- **After your size up** – determine a "plan" with your partner(s).
- Begin your search immediately - time is not on *anyone's* side, (are conditions getting better or worst as time passes?)

If conditions are not conducive in sustaining life

- Searches should be done in coordination with the hose line.
- Searches & Fire attack can be carried out simultaneously
- The hose line maintains fire control, as primary searches are conducted – (Note: *we can hold a fire in check on tank, where extinguishing may require being on a hydrant*).

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Search:

- Locate and report to command location of: Victim(s), Fire , and any observed Hazards -(Remember you're also doing Recon)
- Ventilate where needed **and** when conditions allow.
  Is venting the fire area prior to water on fire – "when conditions allow" ?
- Temporarily prevent extension of fire by **closing doors**.
  (*Locate, Confine, Communicate*)
  This will also keep conditions more tolerable for you as the search team and for the entering hose line, but for how long?
  - Is it now safe to pass this closed door ?
  - What type of door is it: solid core, hollow core, fire proof with 1 hour rating…? (there is a huge difference !) *Sound it to see*
  - What should we do if we do pass these questionable doors ?

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Standard Search Practices

- Again, Search's need to begin immediately.
  Stay low when checking for victims.

If you can't see your feet – we shouldn't be standing

- Most victims will be found unconscious & on the floor
  "*Stepping on these victims, may be bad* "

- As you search it is good practice - "vent-as-you-go"
  - This is done only when a line has been established on fire
  - This is done by opening or clearing windows as you pass them but not spending a lot of time in doing so
  - This allows the smoke and heat will lift, providing better visibility for you and fresh air to any victims on the floor.

- Use a tool to extended your reach when probing for victims.
  Handles are better then tool side, - "doesn't hurt as much".

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Standard Search Practice

Thermal Imaging Cameras:

- A Great Tool – makes our searches quicker
  BUT -like with all mechanical devises, it can fail

- Don't get locked on the image on screen
  Take mental picture of the area being scanned
  Type of room: Hospital bed, toys in the room…

- Always recognize and note last escape point seen on screen

- The Camera will give confidence, confidence that could lead to trouble. Use your senses as well, what seems bad, probably is.

Note battery level before uses and it's good practice to take the spare battery in with you.
(also good to practice changing battery with gloves on & eyes closed)

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Standard Search Practices

- Team members should keep track of each other either by: touch, sight, or verbally
- Try to visualize (mental picture) of room your searching, is it the kitchen, living, kids bedroom This may help **you** later, - Why?
- Bathrooms, Closets, Space behind large chairs, Under beds … should all be checked – Why?
- Window are typically located above radiators.
- Check directly under windows for victims overcome trying to get out them.
- Search the fire room, when possible and then close the door to isolate the fire.

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Standard Search Practices

- Indicate a room has been searched by flipping the mattress, cushions, furniture, etc…

- Release locks slowly and open door slightly. If there is a strong push of heat or fire, close the door and wait for a hose line. Keeping this door open as you search could make conditions worst for the entire structure, impeding all fire operations.

- Make sure victims are not laying against a door that open inward; victims may be found near doors. The first member through the door must check behind it for victims. If you feel resistance while opening a doors, as if something is holding it back, it's probably a victim on the floor just inside.

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Standard Search Procedure

- Don't enter a building in which the fire has progressed to the point where viable victims are not likely to be found, without a hose line. In these instances our searches should be off a hose line. Remember: Risk vs. Reward
- Attempt entry after horizontal ventilation is accomplished , when a *backdraft conditions exist*.
- Work within the established plan , do not freelance.
- Maintain communication with IC / Operations, whichever has control over search & rescue teams.
- Monitor fire conditions , almost always will effect search teams operation.

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Standard Search Procedure

- Utilize accountability procedures and assure a FAST Team is established to help any potential firefighters in distress.
- Work in teams of two or more and stay in physical, visual, or voice contact with each other.
- Search *systematically to increase efficiency* and to reduce the possibility of becoming disoriented.
- Stay below level of thermal layer and move cautiously while searching. *Again: shouldn't be standing if can't see our feet*.
- Monitor the structure's integrity – Use thermal image camera (TIC) to assist in search operations.

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Standard Search Procedure

- Size up doors for security measures: a residential locked door typically means someone is inside (*most are not keyed*) *SRO (single room occupancies) is the exception.*

- Remember the direction of travel when entering the room.

- Any sign of forced entry should alert secondary search teams that primary search were completed in that area, as well as a flipped mattress, cushions, chocked door …
  aka: *Marking the Room*

- Maintain contact with Anchor Points (wall, search rope or fire hose), when visibility is obscured. Working together, search team members can extend their reach by using ropes, straps, webbing or tools.

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Standard Search Procedure

- A charged hose line should be on hand and nearby, whenever possible, when working on the fire floor

- Coordinate ventilation with " water on the fire" before opening windows to relieve heat and smoke during search. *What may these vents do to the fire, before water's on fire*?

- Advise Command/Operations immediately of any rooms that couldn't be searched for whatever reason.

- Report promptly to Command once search is complete, with the results. "*primary searches 1st floor are negative*"

In addition to giving results of search, report the progress of the fire and the condition of the building - Reconnaissance

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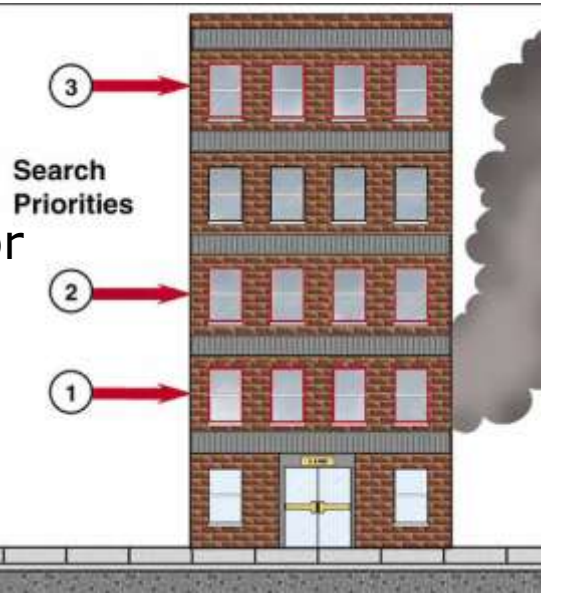
Setting Search Priorities:

The area most threatened must be searched first and work back to the point of entry.

This operation may be referred to as **"Direct Destination Search",** in these cases a search rope or hose line is used as our Anchor Point.

When searching multistory building, whether two-story or high-rise, the most critical areas are (**1**) the fire floor (**2**) the floor directly above the fire and (**3**) the very top floor.



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Setting Search Priorities:

What about this case: What is our Priority ? **X = Fire Room**

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

When we are targeting a specific location*:*
"Looking for a missing firefighter on 2nd floor 3/4 corner", or "Grandma is bed ridden in bedroom 1st floor 2/3 corner" …

This is when we utilize our direct destination search.
The team leader will have a Search Rope – secured outside prior to entry and will be the **anchor point** for the search.

- all searches will be conducted off this search rope
- the leader will maintain contact with their teams 1 or 2 members via, voice, contact (physical, tag line, webbing) and should be aided by the use of a TIC .
- These searched are more direct since you have a target you're going to rescue.

What if you're going on your size up results and are unsure of what you may be going in looking for – doing Recon ?

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

Choose a Pattern (Right or Left) aka: *Traditional Search*

- Upon entry, a decision must be made to follow the interior wall to the right or to the left. The determining factor is the direction that leads to the people that are most threatened.
  Night time & bedrooms are left, Daytime and living area is to the right...

- Once the initial turn is made (right or left), the search team is committed to a right or left search pattern. All other future opportunities to turn shall be in the same direction/pattern.

- In these cases – The wall will be our Anchor Point.
  Does this mean a Search Rope can't on hand with the team ?

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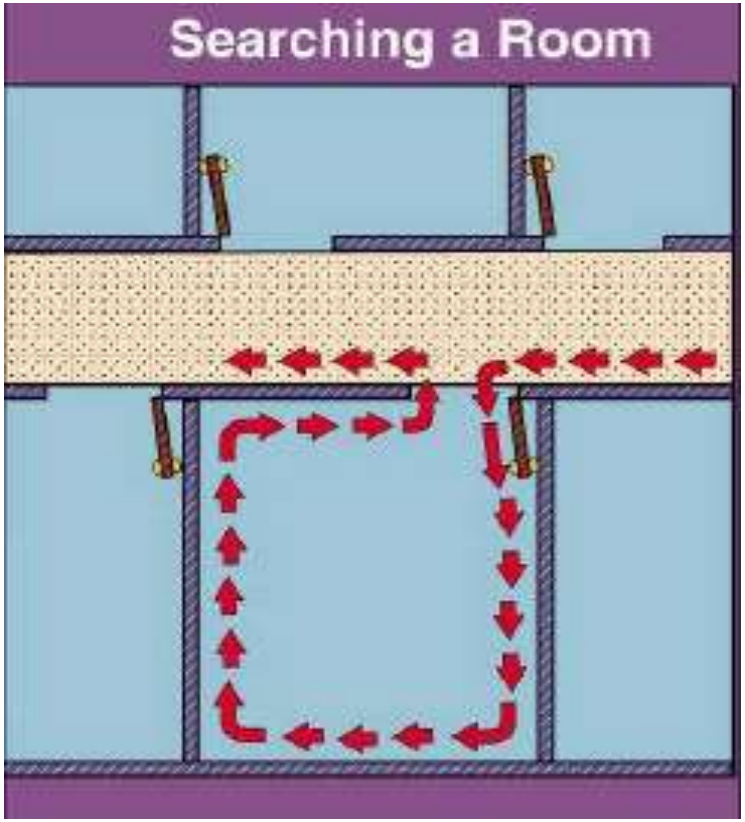
Traditional Search

Traditional - Left Hand Search



- Left hand Anchors the wall
- Enter room on left hand
- Finish room – enter hall on left hand…

So if you Entered on Left – Exit will be on Right hand

Note if Reversed:
Enter on Right hand
Exit would be on Left hand

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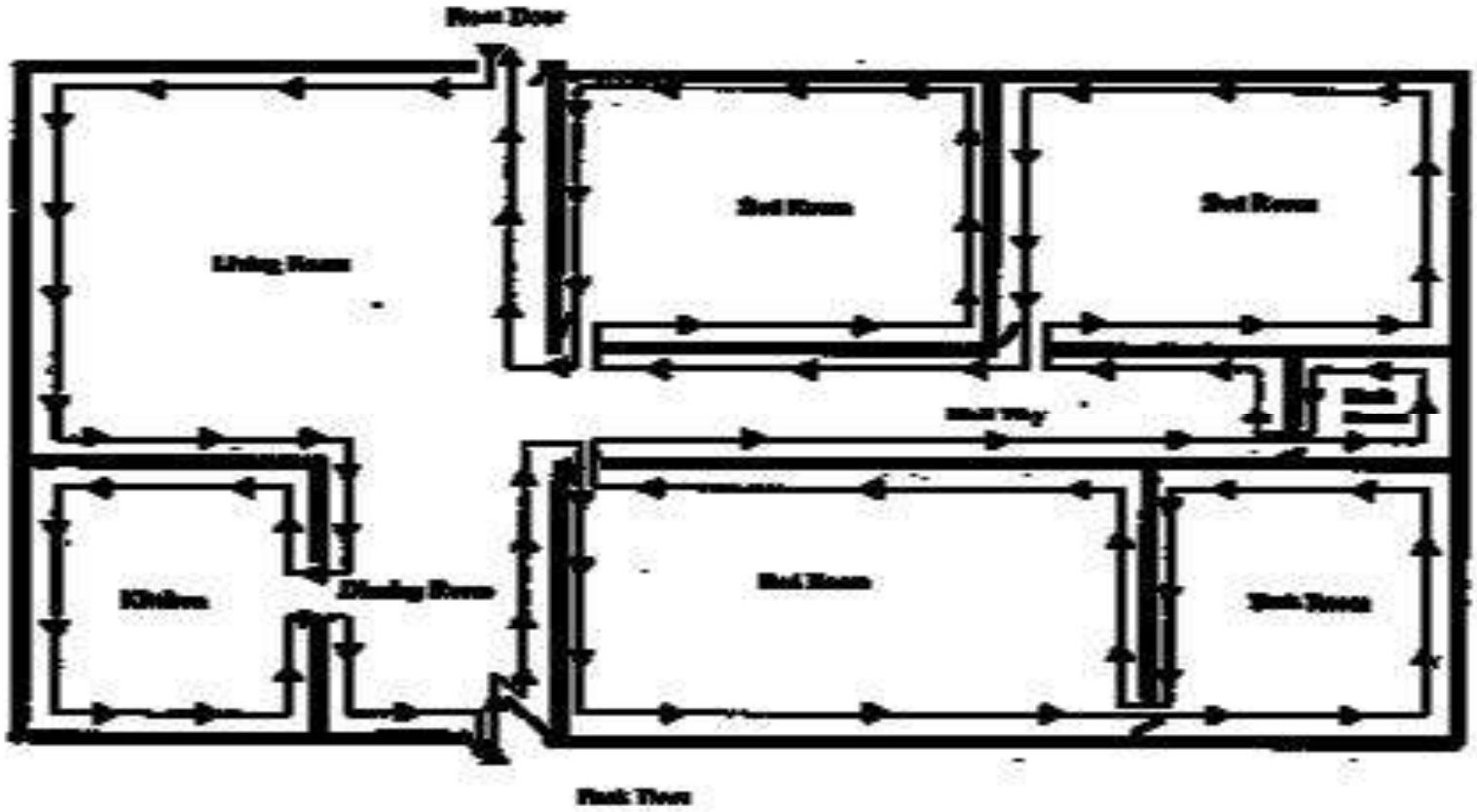
Traditional Search

Traditional - Right Hand Search



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Traditional Search

- ***Maintain Visual or Physical Contact with Wall***
  - The wall person must utilize the walls to guide the search team methodically through the structure. The wall-person should never break contact with the wall.
  - Wall contact can be physical or visual depending on the interior environment/visibility. The same door should be used to enter and exit a room in order to prevent missing rooms.
  - Tools, Webbing, Rope should be utilized to extend the search area away from the wall and into the area being searched.
  - If the area is large, it may not all be searched properly – with a traditional search, especially the center of the room.

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Traditional Search

- **<u>Stay Low and Utilize Equipment</u>**

○ Depending on the conditions within the fire building, rescuers may be able to search while walking in an upright position or then again conditions may have us down on their knees. (*again if can't see your feet, you shouldn't be standing*)

○ If there is a light smoke and little or no heat, walking is the <u>most rapid</u> means of searching a building (we still need to maintain visual contact with the wall or hose line at all times, conditions may change on you rapidly, driving us down to our knees).

○ Searching in a crawling position can increase visibility and protect rescuers from intense heat and reduce the chances of tripping or falling into stairways or holes in the floor.

○ All members of team must have the equipment needed to accomplish an effective search. Forcing doors, extending reach, hand light, webbing, whatever the condition require – (realize *each incident is different – you need to be prepared*)

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Traditional Search

Encountering Doors:

When a closed door is encountered during a search, firefighter should:

- Assess the door to determine direction of swing and fire conditions on the other side of the door.

(Direction of swing can be accomplished by “reading" the hinges, jamb and hardware)

- Firefighters should also assess the door for possible fire conditions on the other side of the door. This is accomplished by scanning the door with the TIC.

- When Opening the door,
  - utilize door to protect yourself on outward swinging doors
  - utilize wall to protect yourself on inward swinging doors.

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Traditional Search

<u>Encountering Doors</u>:

- Force entry, however if the lock is popped and there is resistance opening the door, there is a good possibility of a victim being on the floor on the other side.

- Chock door in the Open Position. This not only prevents the door from closing behind you but the chock will act as a reference to your point of entry.

- When leaving the room, remove the chock. Break the knob, mark door in some way, letting other know the room was searched. If marking is not done, the door can be kept chocked open to identify the room was searched but doing this could increase damage throughout the structure.

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Traditional Search

Encountering stairs:

- Searching multi-story structures can be complicated and very time consuming. The IC will typically assign a search team to each floor to expedite the search completion.

- In a small multi-story building or if visibility is good, one search team may be adequate. However, it is recommended that more than one search team be assigned in multi-story especially with occupancies.

- Treat stair landings as a doorway and proceed from them on a right or left handed pattern. The stairs leading to an upper floor should be searched by the team searching that floor.

- For firefighter safety, a second means of egress should always be provided to search teams above the ground floor. This is usually accomplished by the use of ground or aerial ladders.

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

<u>Orientated Search</u>:

- Emphasizes **<u>team search</u>** concept
- Must have a pre-determined plan
- This method is ideal for use when small rooms are involved *(Hallway w/ 3 bedrooms and bath – our typical House)*

<u>Search leader</u> remains "**oriented"** to a place in structure

On search rope or Hose Line
In entry way to a room
In hallway

- Oriented persons job is to guide the searching firefighter back to them.
- Searching firefighter will use traditional search methods while working inside a room: Right hand, left hand, quick primary search sweeps …

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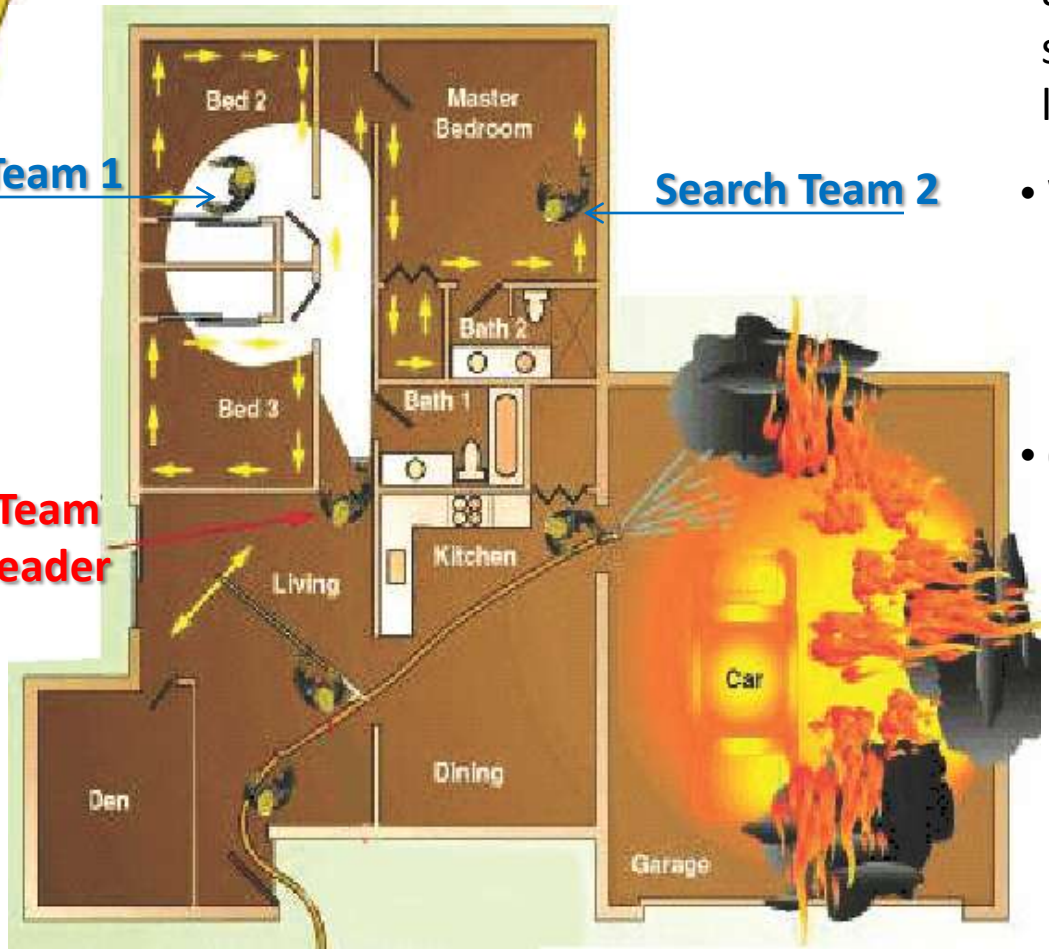
Orientated Search:



- Search Team Leader takes a position where they stays orientated to a location in structure.
- With a hand Light and TIC, they monitor members of their team by visual and voice contact.
- Once team members complete searches of their area, the team returns to the leader and as a team, reassemble and move on to another area of structure.

Provides much quicker searches

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

For Search Purposes, What is considered a Large Area?
- any area where our traditional search techniques will be ineffective due to the size of the area requiring searching

Do we have these in our district?

1. Big Box Store: Restaurant Depot, Home Depot, Lowes, BJ Wholesale Club, Costco, WalMat ...
2. Schools - Westbury HS, Clarke HS, BOSES...
3. Hotels - Red Roof, Hilton Garden Inn, Pines Motor Lodge, Hampton Inn, Hyatt ...
4. Self Storage - Storage Quarters
5. Commercial Office Building - all along Old Country Rd
6. Industrial - Covanta ...
7. Malls - Source, Roosevelt Field ...
8. Building Under Construction… **They are everywhere !**

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Large Area Search:

What make these Large Area Searches different from our Traditional Search?

- do we have a wall to follow and still cover the entire area?
- is that tool going to extend our reach enough to cover the entire area?
- is branching off our partner with a piece of webbing going to allow us to cover entire area safely?
- can we split the crew and cover the area safely?

If the Answer is NO
Large area search techniques need to be deployed.

- Typically the team that starts a large area search isn't the team finishing it. (limited air/ very time consuming)

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Large Area Search:

Types of Large Area Searches:

There are many types of Large area search techniques, The technique utilized for the search will depending on the type of structure: school, church, big box store…

L Pattern, Y Pattern, Leapfrog, Aisle Search, Arch Search… each technique being a multiple hour drill by themselves.

This being a Probationary Drill, just know, large area searches always utilize search rope, known as a main line and lines that branch off the main line known as tether lines.

This is specialized training and if the event is going to require complex search, a TRT – Tactical Rescue Team may be utilized for these searches.

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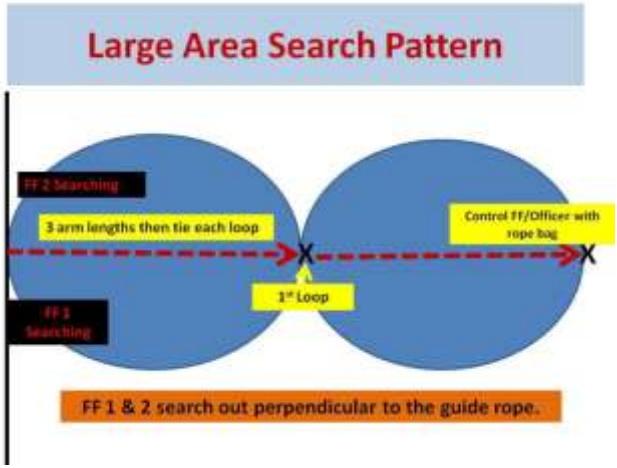
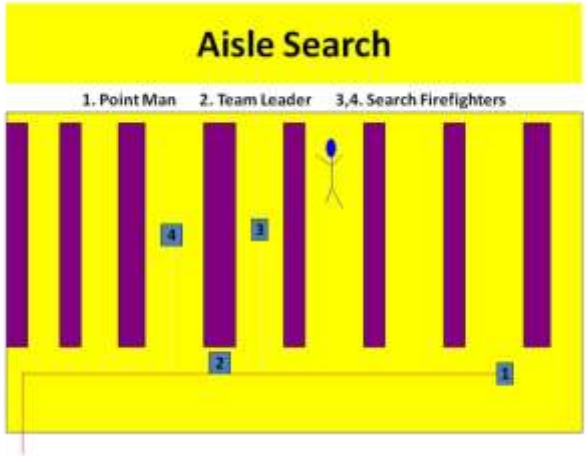
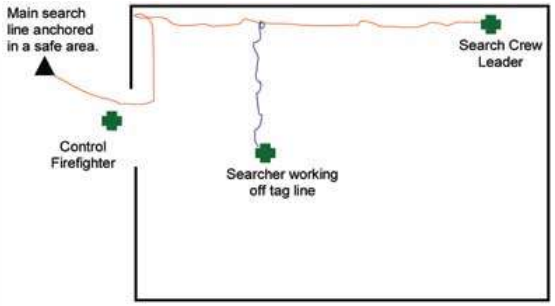
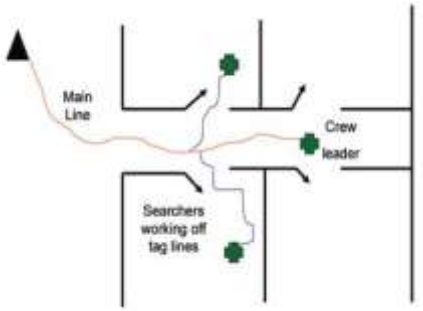
Large Area Search:



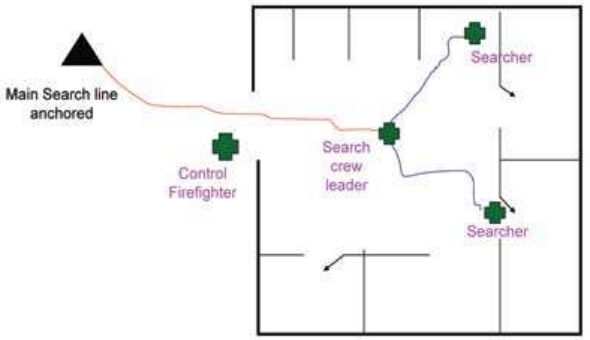




L – pattern on large area



L – pattern on multiple rooms



Y – pattern

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

Vent – Enter – *Isolate* - Search:

VENT - involves forcing entry (from doors, *windows*, walls) into an area where a victim or victims are most likely to be found.

ENTER - involves entering the structure from this point of ventilation , you just created - first we sweep the floor below opening, checking for victims

- Sound the floor before entering – make sure floor is intact
- After entering 1st FF waits for 2nd FF to get to the opening
- 2nd FF stays outside and maintains orientation
- 2nd FF maintains voice/visual contact & monitors smoke/fire conditions

ISOLATE - to avoid drawing fire into this area, due to the opening created, the firefighters who entered should locate and close any doors to the area preventing the fire, heat and smoke from extending into the area.

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Choosing a Search Pattern/Method:

<u>Vent – Enter – Isolate - Search</u>:

<u>SEARCH</u> – doing a quick traditional search of the **room/area** you entered and **immediately exit** upon completion of that search.

These searches do not extend outside of the room/area entered and will be done while the 2nd FF monitors the entering FF from outside. The 2nd FF should also be ready to do the removal if a victim is found.

As with all tactical *operations,* the IC should be notified whenever VEIS is initiated, so it can be coordinated with other fire ground operations. *This is an <u>extremely dangerous task</u>, most of the time putting you ahead of the fire, without the protection of hose line and possibly unknown to inside operating teams.*

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Vent – Enter – Isolate - Search:

X – Point of Entry

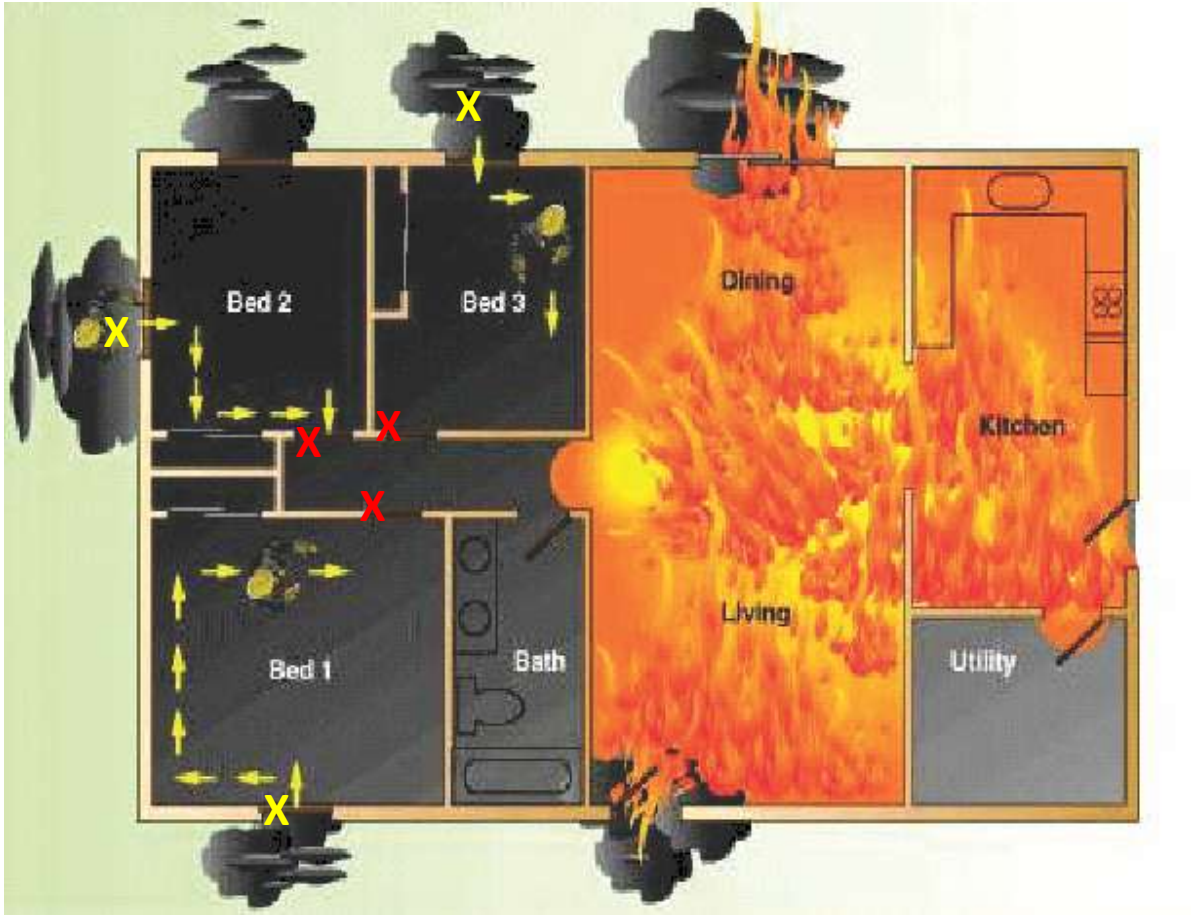
VEIS member enters

Does Traditional Search of the area – Right or Left hand Search

X – Door to close

If nobody is found, get out

If a victim is found, *Radio and Remove*



WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Vent – Enter – Isolate - Search:

X – Point of Entry

Entry made via Ladder or Porch

After Entry Made
X – Door to close

If no one found, get out <u>from your Point of Entry</u>

If Victim found, Radio and Remove

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

Now we've learned about searches, the types and how to conduct them, but who in the dept has the responsibility to perform these searches?

If we take an every day "Structure Fire" and break it down:
In almost all cases an Engine will be 1st rig to arrive on scene.

In these cases, depending on the personnel on that rig, typically the Officer and FE (Forcible Entry) position will be conducting the initial primary search.

They will Force Entry and if the Truck is still not on scene, they will start primary searches of the structure, as the rest of the Engine crew gets water to rig and a hose line to the point of entry.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

First Due Engine Assignments

POSITION	ASSIGNMENT	TOOLS	JOB REQUIRED
C	Chauffeur	Radio	Drive & Operate Pump
O	Officer	Radio Officers Tool Handlight TI Camera	Supervise Hose Stretch, FE & Search
1	Nozzle Position	Nozzle - 50' Hose Door chocks	Stretch line to fire, operate the nozzle
2	Back Up Position	100' Hose Handlight	Assist and back up, the nozzle position
3	Forcible Entry (FE)	Axe or Maul Halligan	Force Entry & Search, Inside Truck Op's, Engine support
4	Hydrant / Outside Vent (OV)	Hydrant Bag, Radio 6'hook, ladder	Hydrant hook up - then Outside ventilation/laddering
5	Control	Hose from back up or door to engine	position hose kink free and for easy advancement
6 (interior)	Door (i) /	Hose from back up to door	position hose kink free and for easy advancement
6 (exterior)	Outside Vent 2 (OV) (e)	6'hook, halligan ladder, handlight	Work with OV 1 Outside ventilation/laddering

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

The Engine Officer and FE will conduct primary searches until relieved by the 1st due Trucks Search Team.

In a good number of cases, these searches will be quick and done while the hose line is being established by the rest of the Engine crew.

- Once the line is ready, the Officer and FE will direct the line into position to keep the fire in check as the primaries are continued by now hopefully the search team of the 1st due truck.

- If the truck is still not on scene, the officer and FE will continue searches off the line with the hose line being their anchor point of reference. *At some point the Truck Search Team should take over.*

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

When the 1st truck arrives on scene,
The Officer, Position 1 (Hook/Can) and Position 2 (FE)
ultimately has the responsibility for Searches

In a good number of cases, they will start their searches at the line and where the 1st Engine Officer left off.

These Searches may have the protection of "water on the fire" if late arriving and line is established.

If truck arrives prior to line being established, they will typically perform the primary searches , with vents being controlled limiting the air on the fire, keeping fire in smoldering phase.

Once primaries are complete or they can't go any further due to conditions – the search team will bring line to the fire and either assist engine with overhaul or complete searches.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

First Due Truck Assignments

POSITION	ASSIGNMENT	TOOLS	JOB REQUIRED
C	Chauffeur	Radio Pike Axe	Drive & Operate Ladder
O	Officer	Radio Officers Tool Handlight TI Camera	Supervise Interior Vent, FE & Search
1	Hook/Can Position	6' Hook Water Can	Interior - Vent, Entry and search - (VES)
2	Forcible Entry (FE)	Axe or Maul Halligan	Interior - Vent, Entry and search - (VES)
3	Roof Position 1	6' Hook Axe Portable Radio 8' Hool Halligan Saws Life & Utility Rope	Roof Operations Exterior VES
4	Roof Position 2		Assist Roof Position 1

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

This covers the initial primaries search,
What about any other searches ?

Depending on the structure , conditions, size up…
The conditions found may require VEIS.

Who else may do these VEIS searches?

Lets say the roof is a residential peaked roof, or it's a 4 story Multi-dwelling with a fire on 1st floor (*neither requiring roof cutting*)

The Trucks Roofs Positions – they have the responsibility for Horizontal Vents – means vents above the fire floor.
In doing so, there may a need to do VEIS as well.
From a ladder/platform , take window, VEIS the room quickly, come down, get another ladder and do another room…

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

First Due Truck Assignments

POSITION	ASSIGNMENT	TOOLS	JOB REQUIRED
C	Chauffeur	Radio Pike Axe	Drive & Operate Ladder
O	Officer	Radio Officers Tool Handlight TI Camera	Supervise Interior Vent, FE & Search
1	Hook/Can Position	6' Hook Water Can	Interior - Vent, Entry and search - (VES)
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WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Search Responsibilities:

Although the Engine's Hydrant/OV has a responsibility for Outside Vents , (once the hydrant is established) – these members shall not do VEIS unless they are paired up with the 2nd Engines Hydrants/OV and both members are class "A" members, capable of performing this task.

In most cases, our Hydrant/OV will be new members, so their sole responsibility after establishing a hydrant will be OV and vertical vents of floor above the fire floor then once there is water on the fire, the fire room.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

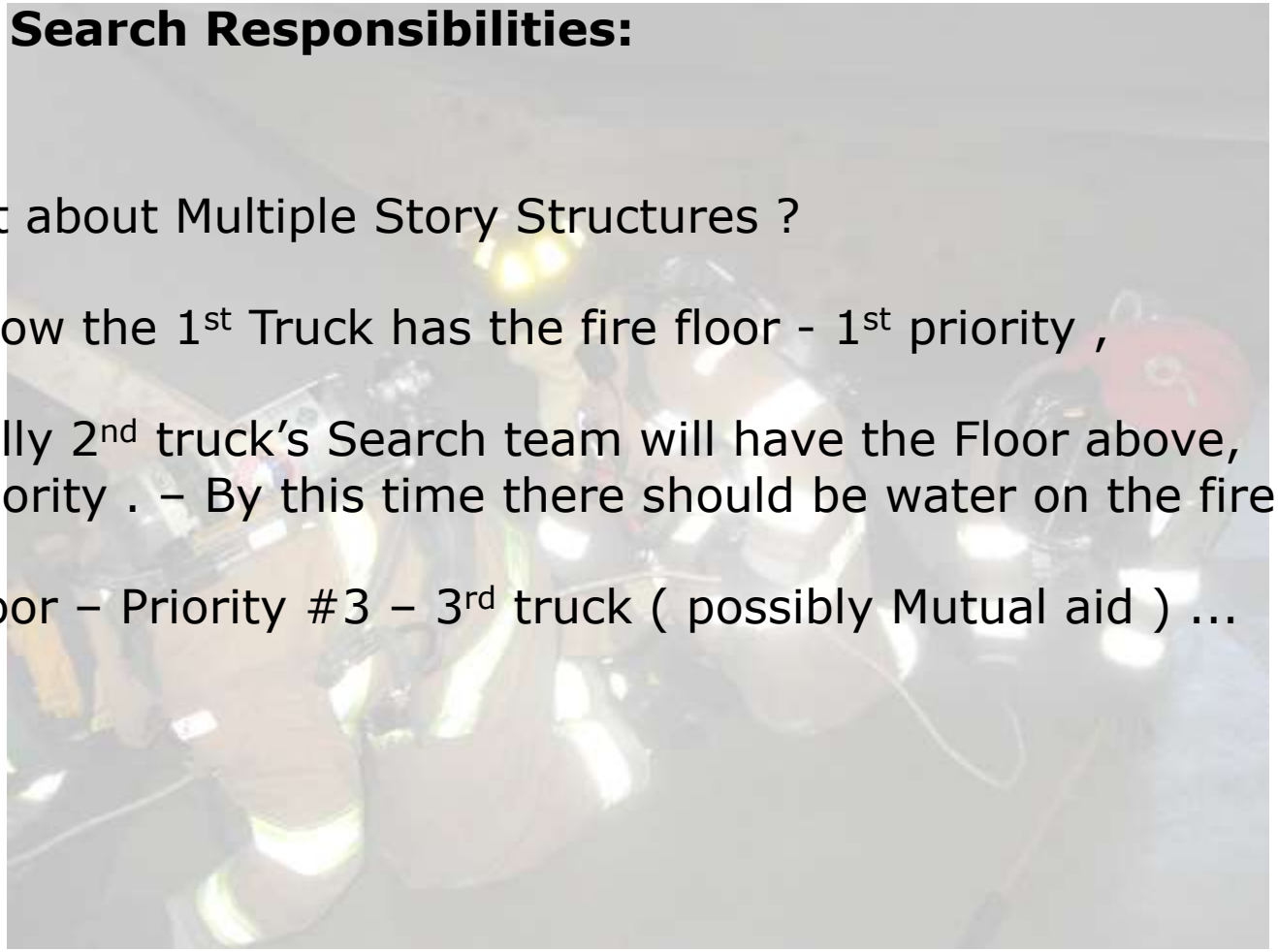
Search Responsibilities:

What about Multiple Story Structures ?

We know the 1st Truck has the fire floor - 1st priority ,

Typically 2nd truck's Search team will have the Floor above, 2nd priority . – By this time there should be water on the fire?

Top floor – Priority #3 – 3rd truck (possibly Mutual aid) ...



WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

What about Secondary Searches:

Secondary searches are typically done once there is water on all fires and the fire will hold, meaning not extend any further.

These secondary searches are always done by a different crew then the members who preformed the primary searches and usually by a later arriving Truck Co.

These secondary searches are slow and complete, no area not checked. *There is nothing worst then learning later a person was missed*. You need to understand, the victim may not be a recognizable person, due to the fire conditions.

All areas means, not just inside but also the perimeter of building. Note: victims could have jumped and are unconscious on the outside, landed in the pool … again no one should be overlooked!

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

Rescue - the second phase of our Search and Rescue.

We've conducted our search and located a victim, **Now What?**

The first thing we need to understand, these victims don't have firefighting gear on nor a SCBA.

We may have searched through some bad conditions, forced a door to find a light smoke condition and a victim on the floor. Is taking this victims out through the same conditions we went through the best means of removing them? Maybe / Maybe Not

This is when we need to take a deep breath, report our find and come up with a plan to safely remove the victim.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

The Rescue will be influenced by Conditions:

- The conditions of the areas we went through to get to the victim, taking into consideration during that time period, did the conditions get better or did they possibly getting worst?
- The conditions of the area the victim was found and if there is any other means, in that area, of removing them.
- The condition of the victim, are they conscious and breathing, are they unconscious but breathing or are they unconscious and not breathing…
- All these factors will be weighed and a plan to remove made

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

A good number of the times, if we close the door behind us, open a window(s) in that area (if any) and if the victim is breathing we've already helped them.

If the victim is not breathing, then time is not on their side. These victims need <u>immediate removal</u> and us taking them through a harsh environment isn't going to effect their condition. If they don't get Oxygen and real soon, they will not survive, if surviving is even possible at all.

Other instances where <u>immediate removal</u> is required:

- Imminent threat of fire extension to the immediate area,
- Flammable or explosive materials are involved,
- If it's impossible to protect the scene or space/area,

No matter what the victims condition may be.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

Our ideal rescue would be to shelter a conscious victim in place until conditions allow us to walk them out through the structure or down a ladder … unfortunately these are very rare events, most people who are able to get out will and do so prior to our arrival. We are more likely to deal with the person who was unable to remove themselves or in their attempt have become overcome by the smoke before we get to them.

Removing an unconscious victims is one of the most physically demanding things we as firefighters will do. These victims can't assist you, they will be flaccid and hard to maneuver.

The first thing was as firefighters can do to make these rescues effectively is keeping ourselves physically fit to get this job done. *If we are not is shape, these attempts to remove a victim ultimately subject ourselves to becoming a victim ourselves.*

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

When we need to physically remove a victim from a structure, there's a few things we need to understand:

- Water boils at 212 degrees and the humans body is made up of 70 % water .
- Will the conditions and air quality be better at the floor or be better the higher we get from the floor?

These are things we need to consider in our removal.

- if conditions allow us to pick the victim up and carry them out, this is what we'll do, and will be the fastest way to remove them.
- if we're dealing with high heat or heavy smoke conditions by carrying the victim in the standing position, we could be doing more harm then good, to both the victim and possibly ourselves.
- If conditions warrant, we should be on knees dragging these victims to safety.

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

There are may different techniques and methods we can use to assist us in a victim removal , all being reviewed in the hands on portion of this drill.

Inclined Drag

<u>Blanket</u> Drag

<u>Webbing</u> or Strap Drag
(few different ways to perform)

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

Cradle lift

Seat Lift/Carry

Extremities Lift/Carry

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

Firefighter Lift/Carry

Chair Lift/Carry

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Rescues:

Removing Victims by Portable Ladder

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROBATIONARY DRILL

Hands On Applications

At the Training Building the following items will be preformed.

1. Direct Destination Search - utilizing search rope
2. Traditional Pattern Search - Right & Left off Walls
3. Door – Forcing/Checking and using for our protection
4. Stairs – Searching from as our starting point
5. Orientated Search w/ TIC
6. Vent/Enter/Isolate/Search
7. Review riding positions & responsibilities in a search
8. Victim Removals - Drags & Carries
9. Sheltering Victims in place
10. Victim Removal by a Ladder

This Drill is also a SCBA use drill, all objectives will be met utilizing full PPE, which includes a SCBA and on air.