

2022 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY STAND DOWN



June 19, 2022

Structure Fires



NFPA 1700 Guide For Structural Fire Fighting

Project future events This is catastrophically important to first responder safety. Many times the things that hurt and kill first responders are predictable IF you know what to look for and IF you see it in time to take appropriate action.

Imagine that every time you respond to a building on fire you form a mental expectation the building is in the process of falling down. Is that a realistic assumption? You bet it is! You don't have to study Newton's law of universal gravitation to understand gravity is pushing down on the earth all the time and with constant force. This means, gravity is trying to make every building fall down (including the one you are sitting in right now)

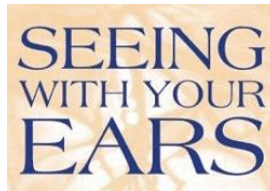


Size-up: It all starts with size-up – gathering the information that forms situational awareness. The stronger the situational awareness, the better the decision making potential.

Accountability: A critically important component of emergency scene safety when personnel operates in a hazardous environment.

If you look at every building on fire as if it is in the process of falling down, it can change your entire perspective about your safety. As you conduct your size up, consider what the building is made out of. There are many different types of construction and each have their benefits and detriments, most of which are a factor of strength and cost of the materials.

Dwellings made with lightweight construction are going to lose their battle with gravity much, much sooner than dwellings made with legacy construction materials. Buildings with fire suppression systems and fire resistive construction are going to fare better than those without. Be of the mindset that heat is degrading the component of construction and the building you are working in is being pushed to the ground by gravity. There may be little to no warning to indicate when gravity is going to win the battle.



Two Headed Incident Commander: Whether it is physical workload or mental workload, each of us have limits and those limits are not created equally in every person. Issues of individual capacity aside, it is important to realize and acknowledge the limits to existing and, under stress, you're going to reach those limits much sooner.

Structural Fire Situational Awareness Podcasts:

[Episode 297 – Surrounded by Fire: The Roree Payment Story – Part 1](#)

[Episode 298 – Surrounded by Fire: The Roree Payment Story – Part 2](#)

[Episode 266 – Firefighter Through the Floor – The Matt Marlow Story](#)

[Episode 198 – Five Fatalities and Lessons Learned from Chesterfield County – Part 1](#)

[Episode 199 – Five Fatalities and Lessons Learned from Chesterfield County – Part 2](#)

[Episode 200 – Five Fatalities and Lessons Learned from Chesterfield County – Part 3](#)

[Episode 240 – Trapped in a collapse – The Jason Corthell Story](#)

All department members need to come to the realization that being an emergency responder is dangerous work and no matter how well-trained we are or how experienced we are, unexpected things can and will happen. To be of the mindset that it will never happen on your emergency scene is quite literally, delusional.