

VIRTUA FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

RISK MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

To outline a procedure that ensures the risks faced by department personnel are minimized through sound risk management and safety practices.

PROCEDURE

1. Upon the arrival of the Incident Commander, he or she will integrate risk management when developing strategy and tactics for the incident.
2. The management of risk levels involves all of the following factors
 - A. Routine evaluation of risk in all situations.
 - B. Well-defined strategic options.
 - C. Standard operating procedures.
 - D. Effective training.
 - E. Full protective clothing ensemble and equipment.
 - F. Effective incident management and communications.
 - G. Safety procedures.
 - H. Back-up teams for rapid intervention.
 - J. Rest and rehabilitation.
 - K. Regular evaluation of changing conditions.
 - L. Experience based on previous incidents and critiques.
3. The acceptable level of risk is directly related to the potential to save lives or property. Where there is no potential to save lives, the risk to personnel must be evaluated in proportion to the ability to save property of value.
4. When there is no ability to save lives or property, there is no justification to expose personnel to any avoidable risk, and a defensive fire attack strategy is appropriate.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Risk/Benefit Value Statement

- Within a structured plan, we may risk our lives to protect savable lives.
- Within a structured plan, we may risk our lives to protect savable property.
- We will NOT risk our lives at all to save lives or property that is already lost.