

INTRODUCTION

Two of the most important issues at the emergency incidents are risk management and personnel accountability. Risk Management Procedures and Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines provide important information for firefighters, supervisors and managers.

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

We will risk a lot to save life.

We will risk a little to save property and values at risk.

We will risk nothing to save that which is already lost.

RISK MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

The Five-Step Risk Management Process:

1. Identify the Hazards
 - a. Be specific
 - b. Describe tangibly
2. Assess the Hazards/Risk (Risk = Hazard Severity x Probability of Occurrence)
 - a. Hazard Severity
 - Catastrophic
 - Critical
 - Moderate
 - Negligible
 - b. Probability of Occurrence
 - Frequent
 - Likely
 - Occasional
 - Seldom
 - Unlikely
3. Make a Risk Decision
 - a. Identify Incident Priorities
 - Life Safety
 - Incident Stabilization
 - Property Conservation
 - Environmental Concerns
 - b. Select & Prioritize Tactical Objectives
 - c. Determine Resource Requirements
 - d. Factor in the Hazards
 - e. Make assignments that are congruent with the strategic priorities and tactical objectives that have acceptable risk and definite benefit.

4. Implement Controls
 - a. Eliminate or mitigate each hazard whenever possible
 - Identify and mark
 - Avoid
 - Remove / eliminate
 - Brief personnel
5. Supervise/Monitor/Evaluate
 - a. Observe and monitor
 - b. Continue to evaluate
 - c. Recycle to the beginning step

RISK MANAGEMENT THEORY

Risk management is a tool that helps determine sound decisions in a logical manner. The term is best applied generically, as leaders are confronted with a variety of risks: training risks, fiscal risks and safety risks.

Before personnel can effectively use risk management as an accident prevention tool, they must remember to:

1. Accept that some risk is inherent in carrying out any action.
2. Integrate risk management into all activities, but especially the planning process.
3. Accept no unnecessary risk.
4. Make risk decisions at the proper level.
5. Accept the risk only if benefits outweigh the cost.

Risk management can be a five-step cyclic procedure that is easily integrated into the decision-making process:

1. Identify the Hazards.
2. Assess the Hazards/Risk.
3. Make a Risk Decision.
4. Implement Controls.
5. Supervise/Monitor/Evaluate.

Risk management is a continual process, ingrained in planning, that should be applied to all operations, especially those that are unique, complex or high-risk.

1. Identify the Hazards

Hazards are the potential sources of danger that could be encountered while performing a job or task. Hazards must be described in their most tangible and descriptive form. Instead of just: "there is fire in the attic..." we can get more specific information from "there is a fire in the attic with blowing flames visible from the gable vent on the C side and dense, black smoke venting under pressure from the gable vent on the A side".

There may be multiple hazards, some presenting more risk than others. The process of identifying and researching one hazard may lead to the identification of others.