

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

SUBJECT: SEARCH OF STRUCTURE INTERIORS

SOG 804

PURPOSE: To have in place a policy for all personnel to follow at fires involving any structure that might be occupied.

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS:

Primary Search: The rapid and thorough visual examination of all habitable areas of a structure for the purpose of locating, removing, and/or protecting exposed occupants unless otherwise specified, this tactic includes horizontal ventilation and deployment of a hoseline.

Secondary Search: The thorough examination of all habitable areas of a structure for the purpose of confirming the location, removal, and/or protection of all exposed occupants.

PRIMARY SEARCH

Primary search shall be conducted in ALL offensive operations.

The failsafe option of firefighters performing primary search shall include the deployment of a hoseline having a minimum flow rate of 100 gpm for protection of firefighters and exposed occupants. A thermal imaging camera shall be deployed in all primary searches.

Primary search of the entire structure generally shall be conducted in the following order:

1. Immediate fire area.
2. The floor immediately above the fire.
3. Other floors above the fire.
4. Other exposed areas.

SECONDARY SEARCH

Secondary search shall be conducted in ALL offensive operations.

As soon as possible after the establishment of fire control, secondary search shall be initiated using different firefighters than performed the primary search. Search priorities remain the same for secondary search.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Search must examine ALL areas of the structure.

When access to ground level delays primary search of upper floors, the firefighters shall gain access, with a ladder, to the area to be searched.