



# FIRST DUE QUESTIONS EXPECTATIONS & DECISION-MAKING

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# TWO CHALLENGES...



Firefighters and Fire Officers need to develop and maintain:

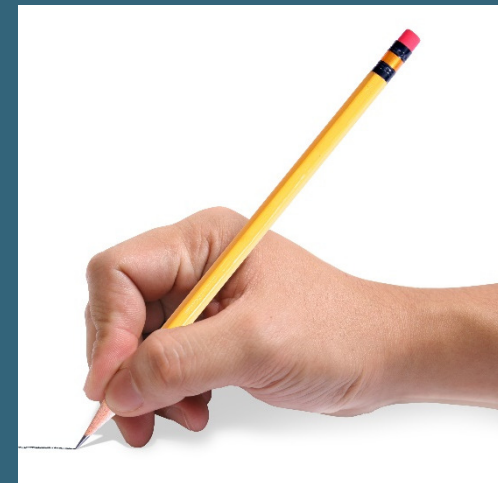
1. Skill in size-up and tactical decision-making
  - Recognition of key indicators
  - Clarity of expectations
2. The ability to write clearly and concisely

# TACTICS AND WRITING



Written responses to tactical questions provides benefits beyond providing practice in these two separate skills.

- Transforms cognitive ability
- Makes thoughts visible
- Provides a practical method to improve action



# THE QUESTIONS



What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?

# THE QUESTIONS



- What is your size-up report to Dispatch (write it exactly as you would transmit the report)?
- What orders if any would you give the members of your crew before exiting the cab (if any)?

# THE QUESTIONS



- What action would you take at this point?
- What update report would you transmit after completing your 360° reconnaissance?

# THE QUESTIONS



- What orders would you give your crew upon completing the 360° reconnaissance and transmitting an update report?
- State your assumptions regarding the effectiveness of your initial actions, and what would come next for your crew.

# THE QUESTIONS



- What assignment would you give the next arriving company?
- Identify what B-SAHF (Building, Smoke, Air Track, Heat, and Flame) indicators informed your decisions.
- Identify the stage(s) of fire development, the burning regime (fuel or ventilation controlled).



# THE QUESTIONS



- Describe the fire conditions that you anticipated inside the building and explain what lead you to these conclusions.
- How did your expectations, incident conditions, observations and your conclusions based on this information influence your choice of strategies and tactics?

**THANKS!**



Thanks for the use of these photos and video to  
Photographer Chris Keene and the New Milford  
(NJ) Volunteer Fire Department.



# RESIDENTIAL FIRE



You are dispatched to an early morning structure fire in a residential neighborhood in your community and are responding on the first due engine.

*What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?*









# RESIDENTIAL FIRE



You arrive on-scene and transmit your size-up report and provide initial orders to your crew:

- *Size-Up (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *What will you do now?*

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Conditions on Side Charlie Floor 1 and Side Delta are unremarkable with a small amount of light smoke and a door on Side Delta at the Delta/Alpha Corner

# RESIDENTIAL FIRE



You have completed your 360, now what?

- *Update (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *Assignment for the next arriving company?*

# RESIDENTIAL FIRE



## What informed your decisions?

- *B-SAHF Indicators*
- *Stages of Fire Development*
- *Burning Regime (Fuel/Vent Limited)*
- *Anticipated Fire Conditions (Floors 1 & 2)*
- *How did your observations influence your decisions in this incident?*

# FIRST DUE QUESTIONS



To write well is to think clearly. That's why it's so hard.  
*David McCullough*



# COMMERCIAL FIRE



You are dispatched to an mid day structure fire in a commercial area in your community and are responding on the first due engine.

*What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?*



# COMMERCIAL FIRE



You arrive on-scene and transmit your size-up report and provide initial orders to your crew:

- *Size-Up (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *What will you do now?*

# COMMERCIAL FIRE



Will you be able to conduct a 360? What will you do if you cannot (i.e. due to building size or obstructions)?

- *Update (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *Assignment for the next arriving company?*



# COMMERCIAL FIRE



## What informed your decisions?

- *B-SAHF Indicators*
- *Stages of Fire Development*
- *Burning Regime (Fuel/Vent Limited)*
- *Anticipated Fire Conditions*
- *How did your observations influence your decisions in this incident?*

# VIOLATION OF EXPECTATIONS



How do your variation from expectations influence ongoing decision-making?

- *Conditions you expected to find inside?*
- *Effect of your tactics?*
- *Observed conditions on the exterior and reports from crews on the interior*

# NOW WHAT?



What will you do with what you have learned?

- *On a personal level?*
- *Your next shift or training session?*
- *Over the next month?*

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