



Wyckoff Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline

103.4.1

**Title: Primary Concerns in
Emergency Operation Planning**

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PURPOSE: When operating in emergency situations every responder, from Incident Commander down to the single resource firefighter, is required to make split-second decisions on the fireground. In order for the operation to be successful, certain criteria must *always* be addressed. Without careful planning, what might appear to be a routine operation can suddenly turn sour with potentially catastrophic results. Clear, systematic thinking is of the utmost importance in insuring proper results of the given task.

OBJECTIVE: Proper utilization of the following guidelines will ensure that all personnel will make intelligent decisions in order to safely accomplish an emergency operation. A thinking firefighter is one of the most valuable assets on the fireground. All decisions involved in emergency operations, regardless as to how small or significant they may be, should be made following the criteria listed.

GUIDELINE: When considering and/or planning operations in an emergency situation, the following decision making hierarchy will be utilized:

1. **Life Safety**
 - a. Firefighter's personal safety
 - b. The safety of fellow firefighters operating at the scene
 - c. Safety of the public
 - d. The decision at this point should involve a Risk vs. Gain analysis. "Risk a lot to gain a lot, risk little to gain little."
2. **Incident Stabilization**
 - a. Gaining control of the situation
 - b. This does not necessarily mean complete mitigation of the problem but just being able to keep it in check so that it does not increase in magnitude.
3. **Property Conservation**
 - a. Protect property
 - b. Prevent items from being damaged during the operation
 - c. Proactive salvage activities to be utilized given proper manpower is available

While this is the preferred sequential process to follow, it is understood that sometimes skipping to the next step will aid in completing the previous one. By putting out a fire, everyone's life safety increases drastically. Additionally, with adequate staffing, multiple steps can be accomplished simultaneously.