

Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures

Tactical Priorities

207.02

Rev 10-07-09

The basic tactical priorities listed below identify the three separate tactical objectives that must be completed in order to stabilize any fire situation. They also establish the order in which these fire ground objectives should be performed.

- #1 - Rescue
- #2 - Fire Control
- #3 - Property Conservation

These objectives should be regarded as separate, yet inter-related, activities which should be dealt with in order. Command should not proceed on to the next priority until the current tactical objective has been completed or sufficient resources have been assigned.

Rescue - The activities required to protect occupants, remove those who are threatened, and to treat the injured.

Fire Control - The activities required to stop the forward progress of the fire and to bring the fire under control.

Property Conservation - The activities required to stop or reduce additional loss by primary or secondary damage to property.

The objectives of each priority are reflected in the following bench marks of completion:

1. Rescue - all clear (primary search)
2. Fire Control - under control.
3. Property Conservation - loss stopped.

All three tactical priorities require somewhat different tactical approaches from both a Command and an operational standpoint.

While Command must satisfy the objective of each function in its priority order, he must, in many cases, overlap and "mix" the activities of each to achieve the current bench mark. Notable examples are the frequent need to achieve interior tenability with active/extensive fire control efforts before proceeding with a primary search, or the need to initiate property conservation, while active fire control efforts are being extended.

The tactical priorities, (Rescue, Fire Control, Property Conservation) are clear, measurable, and obtainable objectives. These objectives are considered complete when the benchmarks are declared.