

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: C-70
SECTION: Operations Division
DATE: 2-15-11
SUPERSEDES: NEW
TITLE: **FIRE GROUND STRATEGIES AND OPERATIONAL MODES**

Scope

This procedure shall apply to all Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District resources operating on the fire ground.

Procedure

The first arriving Company Officer (Incident Commander) is responsible for determining the Operating Mode for the particular incident. The decision will have lasting effects on the overall outcome and success of an incident. The Operating Mode shall be announced on both the Tactical and Command channels.

- I. **OPERATING MODES:** Factors that will assist in determining the Operating Mode include: Rescue profile, fire size and spread, structural stability, availability of resources, first arriving Company Officers experience / knowledge. Etc. The Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District has recognized (3) Operating Modes on the Fire Ground: **Investigation, Offensive Fire Attack and Defensive Fire Attack.**
 - A. **Investigation:** The Investigation Mode is appropriate on incidents where the first on-scene Company officer must investigate further to determine if and where fire ground operations should be initiated.
 1. Examples of incidents requiring the Investigation Mode include: Potential structure responses with nothing showing, and other incident's the first arriving Company Officer deems appropriate.
 - B. **Offensive Fire Attack:** Offensive Fire Attack is appropriate on incidents where the first on-scene Company Officer arrives and determines their actions will lessen the effects of and/or mitigate the incident. Such actions will include; interior companies are conducting fire suppression, search, and related support functions. Companies are operating in a coordinated effort to locate, confine and extinguish the fire to protect life and prevent fire spread. Examples of incidents requiring Offensive Fire Attack:
 1. Immediate rescue.

2. Immediate action will make a significant impact on the over-all incident.
 3. The first arriving Company Officers experience / knowledge will determine the situation appropriate for interior operations.
- C. **Defensive Fire Attack:** Defensive Fire Attack is appropriate on incidents where fire spread and / or structural conditions warrant companies to operate on the exterior of the structure, away from collapse zones, conducting fire activities with the goal of limiting fire extension to exposures and bringing the fire under control.

NOTE: If the decision has been made to transition Operating Modes (**Offensive to Defensive / or Defensive to Offensive**), the Incident Commander **shall** confirm the individual companies assigned to the incident have acknowledged the transition. A PAR can also be conducted at the Incident Commanders discretion.

II. **STRATEGY:** Strategy is defined as the overall plan, goal or desired outcome for the incident. Utilizing the **Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property Conservation** model or the **Rescue, Exposure, Confinement, Extinguishment and Ventilation, Salvage,** and Overhaul (RECEO) model will assist in determining the appropriate strategy. The subsequent Chief Officer, who assumes Incident Command from the initial Company Officer, is responsible for determining the Incident Strategy.

A. The Strategy of the incident may and probably will change several times throughout the incident. Everyone on the fire ground must be made aware of the current Strategy. Additionally, the Incident Commander must evaluate whether the current operating mode is appropriate for the Incident Strategy. This information shall be announced as possible on both the Tactical and Command channels.

1. Examples: “Our strategy is to concentrate on an aggressive fire attack and affect rescue. We are in an *Offensive Mode.*” Or “Our strategy is to concentrate on exposure protection and containing the fire to the building of origin, we are in a *Defensive Mode.*”

Written By: Michael Wapnowski, Battalion Chief

Approved By: _____

Date: February 15, 2011