

Spartanburg Public Safety Department Fire Division

Standard Operating Procedure	No. 102.03
Tactical Priorities	Page 1 of 2
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I. PURPOSE

Tactical priorities identify the three separate tactical objectives that must be completed in order to stabilize any fire situation. These priorities also establish the order in which these basic fire ground objectives must be performed.

II. TACTICAL PRIORITIES

These objectives should be regarded as separate, yet interrelated, activities, which must be dealt with in order. Command cannot proceed to the next priority until the current tactical priority has been completed or sufficient resources have been assigned. Basic tactical priorities are as follows:

1. **Rescue (life safety)** - The activities required to protect occupants, remove those who are threatened and to treat the injured.
2. **Fire Control (incident stabilization)** - The activities required to stop the forward progress of the fire and to bring the fire under control.
3. **Property Conservation** - The activities required to stop or reduce primary or secondary damage to property.

The tactical priorities are clear, measurable, and obtainable objectives. These objectives are considered complete when the benchmarks are declared. The objectives of each priority are reflected in the following benchmarks of completion:

1. Rescue – primary search is “all clear”
2. Fire Control – the fire is not progressing and is under control with on-scene resources
3. Property Conservation – property loss has been stopped

All three tactical priorities require somewhat different tactical approaches from a command and an operational standpoint. While command must satisfy the objective of each function in its priority order, command must, in many cases, overlap and "mix" the activities of each to achieve the current benchmark. Notable examples are the frequent need to achieve interior tenability with active/extensive fire control efforts before

proceeding with primary search or the need to initiate property conservation activities while active fire control efforts are being extended.

III. UMBRELLA OF SERVICE

Within the command framework lies an on-going responsibility that is not completed with benchmarks. This is often referred to as the umbrella of service. **The umbrella of service is made up of three on-going considerations: firefighter safety, customer service, and loss control.** All three of these considerations take place before, during, and after all emergency responses. This umbrella of service is as important as the tactical priorities and is critical to the success and positive outcome of an incident.

Firefighter Safety

Firefighter safety includes both physical and mental preparedness for response to incidents. Physical preparedness includes adequate personal protective equipment, safe apparatus, and physical fitness. Mental preparedness includes pre-fire plans, standard operating procedures, post-incident analysis, and training.

Customer Service

The citizens and visitors of the City of Spartanburg are our customers. Our customers expect a level of professionalism, effectiveness, and efficiency from the Spartanburg Fire Division. We will strive to provide a high level of customer service in our everyday interactions with customers and our response and actions at incidents.

Loss Control

The concept of loss control not only addresses salvage and overhaul techniques but also emphasizes the importance of craftsmanship, pride in profession, and compassion for those we serve in their time of need.