

## Fireground Observations & Safety

### Discussion

There are many indicators on the fireground that things aren't going as planned. The forestry service has long embraced the concept of "Watchouts & Lookouts" in its risk/hazard assessment of operations. The concept can be adapted to fireground operations and require the company officer to identify hazardous conditions and indicators and take action to avoid injury or fatality. The following list identifies *some* of the conditions present at structural fires are meant to serve as "triggers" that something may not be right with what's happening. **Discuss these conditions and describe your actions** when faced with these watchouts & lookouts. (See FDSOA Health & Safety Newsletter Series on this concept)

- What would you do if any of these conditions were present at your incident?
- Discuss the radio reports you would transmit relating to these conditions
- What are the follow-up actions required by IC and your crew when these occur?

You have a working fire and entry will be delayed.	Multiple companies have been assigned to enter through a minimum opening.	Roof sector companies are being driven off or cannot "make-the-roof".	Air is being drawn into the structure and there is no or poor visibility.
You can hear fire burning above you, but cannot see it.	You realize you are working underneath a suspended or supported object.	You feel uncomfortable or have a gut-feeling that something just isn't right.	Your alarm bells rings, and you have not found the fire.
With plenty of water flow, you have made no progress on the fire.	You hear the sound of roof ventilation being conducted behind you.	You are unable to communicate with the Incident Commander or Sector Officer.	You have been on-duty or working at an incident for an extended period of time.
You are working with unfamiliar companies or crew members.	Companies are operating inside a structure greater than 150' from the point of entry.	Building construction characteristics are not consistent with what you would expect or significant modifications have been made.	There is no or little coordination of company actions and people appear to be freelancing.

