

Transitional Operations



Making the Switch From Offensive to Defensive Strategy

In the event of an emergency evacuation of a structure, what is the fireground signal for an all-evacuation emergency?

What must take place immediately upon exit from a structure during a switch in strategy?

What tactical objectives will go into place when strategy is changed from offensive to defensive?

What can pump operators do to support the possibility of switching operations from offensive to defensive attack?

Are there structures in your district that require a specific strategy for attack?

What is the Incident Commanders role during this transition?

Review SOG's on fireground operations on this topic.

The transition from offensive to defensive operations present numerous hazards to firefighters. Some of the conditions that may make it necessary to abandon interior operations for defensive operations include:

- Inability to locate the seat of fire
- Inability to contain fire to area of origin
- Poor or limited water supply
- Collapse or potential for collapse
- Presence of truss construction
- Changes in fire conditions or behavior
- Presence of hazardous materials
- Air supply on interior attack crews
- General lack of progress on incident
- Time benchmarks without progress

The Incident Commander and the Company Officers have many responsibilities once the decision to transition occurs. Firefighter safety and accountability are paramount. Consider your actions when the order is given to abandon interior operations for a defensive attack when answering these discussion questions.

