

<b>Campbell County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure</b>		
Operations	Primary & Secondary Searches	<i>401.08</i>

**I. PURPOSE:**

To outline operational guidelines for fireground primary and secondary searches so that safe and effective emergency operations are the result.

**II. SCOPE:**

This procedure applies to all Campbell County Fire Department (CCFD) firefighting personnel.

**III. PROCEDURE:**

## 1. Definitions:

- 1.1. **PRIMARY SEARCH:** A quick search for LIVE victims, in the most likely locations, before the fire is brought under control. It is done in the initial stages of the firefighting operation. TIME is the most critical factor, as you are working under dangerous conditions where fire extension poses a risk not only to civilian victims but also to firefighters.
- 1.2. **SECONDARY SEARCH:** A secondary search is a methodical, thorough search for victims, surviving or not, after the fire is brought under control. It is done in the overhaul stage of the firefighting operation. A most critical factor relating to a secondary search is that we do not leave the scene only to be notified by someone else that a fire victim has been found.

## 2. Primary Search Guidelines:

- 2.1. Potential victims on the fire floor are the first priority.
- 2.2. Potential victims on the floors above the fire floor are the second priority.
- 2.3. Potential victims on the floors below the fire floor are the third priority.
- 2.4. Consider Ventilation as part of the offensive strategy to aid in locating victims, reducing danger to victims and firefighters and speeding up searches.
- 2.5. Always be ready to use Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) to locate both the victims and the seat of the fire.
- 2.6. When searching the fire floor, try to work from an area as close to the fire as you safely can, (best chance of saving viable victims) then back toward where you entered.
- 2.7. When searching above the fire floor, try to begin searching as soon as you enter the floor.

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- 2.8. ALWAYS let command know of your location and search plan (right hand, left hand, etc.,) and progress you have made. Radio a message to command when the primary search is completed for a floor, reporting "All Clear" if no victims are found.
- 2.9. Don't waste time being methodical on large rooms with good visibility. Call out to locate victims, and then move on quickly.
- 2.10. In rooms of zero visibility it is recommended to use the hose line as both protection from fire and as an escape guide line. As an alternative, use a length of rope as a guide line.
- 2.11. After a room has been searched you MUST shut the door. You MUST mark ½ of a large X (/) with LIGHT COLORED CHALK on the door, under the door knob of the room searched, so that another crew doesn't waste time searching it again. If, for whatever reason, the door cannot be marked, use the adjacent wall or the floor to mark upon.

3. Secondary Search Guidelines:

- 3.1. Check all hidden areas, piles of collapsed debris, etc.
- 3.2. Have different members do the primary and secondary searches, when possible.
- 3.3. This is the time to be exceedingly thorough.
- 3.4. After a room has been thoroughly searched, you MUST mark the other ½ of the large X on the door, under the doorknob of the room searched, indicating that the secondary search has been done.
- 3.5. Radio a message to command when the secondary search is completed for a floor, reporting "All Clear" if no victims are found.
- 3.6. Search the area around the building for victims who may have jumped.