

# SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

## Standard Operating Procedures

**100.03.02**  
EMERGENCY FIREGROUND  
OPERATIONS, STRUCTURAL  
RISK MANAGEMENT



Adopted: 12/20/16  
Reviewed: 12/20/16  
Revised: 00/00/00

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Fisher", is written over a horizontal line.

**Purpose:** To utilize risk management procedures at all emergency operations. This procedure will produce a risk inventory with significant risks analyzed and assessed with appropriate control measures identified and placed in action.

**References:** WAC 296-305-05001(5)  
WAC 296-305-05001  
Procedure: Civil Disturbance  
Procedure: Incidents of Violence

### **Procedure:**

1. It is the intent of the Fire District 8 that its risk management plan will support personnel in decision-making when faced with unforeseen situations.
  - a) The Fire District 8 Risk Management plan shall include provisions for EMS to ensure the safety of all members at the incident site.
2. Definitions.
  - a) **Hazard:** Something with the potential to cause harm.
  - b) **Risk:** The likelihood that harm from a particular hazard is realized. Risk therefore reflects both the likelihood that harm will occur and its severity.
  - c) **Risk Analysis:** The process for gauging the size, shape, scope, and nature of adverse or undesired outcomes.
  - d) **Risk Assessment:** To set or determine the possibility of suffering harm or loss, and to what extent.
  - e) **Risk Management:** The development of strategy and tactical plans based on an accurate risk assessment taking into consideration current and potentially changing scene conditions.
3. Responsibility.
  - a) It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to evaluate the risk to members with respect to the purpose and potential results of their actions in each situation. Risk assessments shall be an on-going process until incident operations are terminated.
4. Guidelines.
  - a) The concept of risk management shall be utilized on the basis of the following principles:

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- i. Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of members shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save endangered lives.
  - ii. Activities that are routinely employed to protect property shall be recognized as inherent risks to the safety of members, and actions shall be taken to reduce or avoid the risks.
  - iii. The compromising of the safety of members shall not be acceptable when there is no possibility to save lives or property.
  - iv. There is an underlying assumption in a residential structure fire that the structure is occupied regardless of the time of day.
- b) The Incident Commander shall evaluate the risk to members with respect to the purpose and potential results of their actions in each situation.
  - c) The Fire District shall provide an adequate number of personnel to safely conduct emergency scene operations. Operations shall be limited to those that can be safely performed by the members available at the scene.
  - d) It must be recognized that every situation is unique and that an all-encompassing definition for undue risk is impossible. The ability for an Incident Commander to use discretion on a situational specific basis is very important. It is not the intent of this policy to mandate how an Incident Commander will react in every situation.