

## **DEFENSIVE STRATEGY**

### **Purpose:**

- To establish a policy related to when a structure is no longer safe for interior operations.

### **Guideline:**

- The decision to operate in a defensive strategy indicates that the offensive attack strategy, or the potential for one, has been abandoned for reasons of personnel safety, and the involved structure has been conceded as lost
  - Advanced fire on arrival
  - Uncontrolled fire in truss areas over 20 min
  - Bulging or cracking walls
  - Loss of water supply
- The announcement of a change to a defensive strategy will be made as Emergency Traffic and all personnel will withdraw from the structure *AND MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE BUILDING*.
- Company Officers will account for their crews and advise OPERATIONS of the status of the crews assigned to their sector.
- Interior lines will be withdrawn and repositioned when changing to a defensive strategy. Crews should retreat with their hose lines if safe to do so. If retreat is being delayed because of hose lines, and it's unsafe to stay in the building, hose lines should be abandoned.
- Establish Potential Collapse Zones and mark them off
- All exposures, both immediate and anticipated, must be identified and protected. The first priority in defensive operations is personnel safety; the second is exposure protection.
- Once exposure protection is established, attention may be directed to knocking down the main body of fire.
- When the exposure is severe and water is limited, the most effective tactic is to put water on the exposure and, if need be, from the interior of the exposure.
- Fire under control means the forward progress of the fire has been stopped and the remaining fire can be extinguished with the on-scene resources; it does not mean the fire is completely out.
- When the fire is brought under control, Command will notify Dispatch utilizing the standard radio report of "FIRE UNDER CONTROL." Dispatch will record the time of this report.