

FIREHOUSE[®]

Weekly Drill

DRILL #70: RECEO-VS

Introduction

At all fireground incidents firefighters are going to be confronted with decisions that will dictate the outcome. To assist them with some of these decisions, many firefighters find that using RECEO-VS comes in handy.

RECEO-VS helps to put key strategies in somewhat of a working order. Keep in mind, however, that fireground operations are very fluid and can change without notice. But these seven strategies can help stabilize some of the chaos. They are: Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage (RECEO-VS). As is the case on any fireground operation, the IC will have to prioritize these strategies based on the incident's priorities.

R = Rescue. Our size-up can help in determining the type of occupancy and whether the need for rescue is going to be necessary or if there might be some other way of protecting the occupants. In some situations, areas of safe refuge are used to protect occupants during minor incidents. In other situations, the quick advancement of an attack line and the extinguishment of the fire will have the desired results.

E = Exposures. Exposures can be internal or external. There are six internal exposures to consider – each of the four sides to the fire, above the fire and below the fire. External exposures can be attached buildings and adjacent structures.

C = Confinement. Our main objective is to confine the fire. Once the location of the fire can be determined, this process will begin. Confinement is sometimes difficult, but it should be the goal to keep the fire at or near the point of origin. If this cannot be accomplished, then confinement will have to be recalibrated with the intent on keeping the fire contained to the room of origin, the floor of origin or, perhaps, the building of origin. In extreme situations, confinement might be the block of origin and beyond. What would this be in a wildland fire?

E = Extinguishment. Once the fire has been confined, the process of extinguishment begins. In this phase of operation, all visible fire is knocked down



and put out. Additionally, extinguishment will work hand-in-hand with the overhauling process, as hidden fires will be located. Don't be restrained in your use of water during extinguishment, but on the other hand, extensive use of water can cause needless damage. Keep in mind that property conservation is one of our incident priorities.

O = Overhaul. The process of overhauling ensures that firefighters have extinguished all fires. The areas that fire can extend into have to be checked. This can be done using a thermal imaging camera, or by more conventional means, the pulling and removing of ceilings and walls to locate any hidden fire or hot spots. All smoldering materials should be removed and extinguished.

V = Ventilation. Ventilation can be utilized at any point in the operations on the fireground to help mitigate the situation. Ventilation allows the interior crews to advance the hoseline by alleviating the heat and toxic gases building up inside. Additionally, ventilation allows fresh air to be drawn in, possibly sustaining any victim's life that might need rescue.

S = Salvage. Salvage is a means of reducing the damage to property from fire, water and smoke. This process fulfills the incident priority for property conservation.

—Prepared by Russell Merrick