

<i>ABANDONED STRUCTURES</i>		TROY FIRE DEPT. TACTICAL PLAN 211.08
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PHILOSOPHY

In order to reduce risk and firefighter injuries, the following philosophy towards fire suppression operations at abandoned structures shall be adopted:

- There are no structures in the City of Troy worth the life of a firefighter.
- No level of firefighter risk is acceptable when there is no chance of saving lives.
- Troy Fire Department strongly advocates rapid interior attacks, but ***only*** in situations of acceptable risk to firefighters.
- Where there is no potential to save lives, the risk to fire department members should be evaluated in proportion to the ability to save property of value.
- When there is no ability to save lives or salvageable property, there is no justification to expose fire department members to avoidable risks, therefore defensive mode fire suppression is the appropriate strategy.
- The Troy Fire Department prides itself on a long tradition of aggressive, offensive interior firefighting. However, the line between aggressive firefighting and unsafe firefighting is very thin. This line should never be crossed.
- The risk to fire department members is the most important factor considered by the incident commander in determining the strategy that will be employed in each situation.
- Fireground strategy decisions cannot be made due to peer pressure, tradition, public perception, or any other non-safety related factor.
- Fire officers must feel comfortable in initiating defensive operations where appropriate, and must not feel compelled to initiate an interior attack in a situation of unacceptable risk at abandoned structures without a known civilian life hazard.
- Fire officers must be prepared to concede property that is already lost or has no potential to be salvageable, and fireground strategy must then move to protect exposures as necessary through defensive operation.

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- Firefighters and fire officers must recognize that abandoned structures represent little to no salvageable property value before the fire incident.