I. FIREFIGHTING OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, AND TATICS

a. The objectives of firefighting are to protect life and property by performing rescues, and by locating, confining and extinguishing fires.
b. Most fire operations employ an *offensive strategy*, which emphasizes the rapid stretching of hoselines for an aggressive interior attack on the seat of the fire.
c. A *defensive strategy* may be employed, initially, at large or expanding fire operations where protection of exposures or containment of the fire is critical. Emphasis is placed on developing large water flows.
d. Engine Company *tactics* at most structure fires are to stretch a hoseline via the primary means of ingress (main entrance to the occupancy), connect to a hydrant, and attack the fire.
e. Truck Company tactics at most structural fires are to perform vent, entry and search (VES) and assisting in the location of fire extension.

II. SIZE-UP

a. Selection and implementation of any strategic plan and its supporting tactics is dependent upon an accurate and ongoing size-up of the fire situation.
b. Size-up starts with the receipt of the alarm and continues until the fire is under control
c. The size-up process may be carried out many times and by many different individuals during the course of a fire. The responsibility for size-up initially lies with the first officer on the scene, however all members must make a personal size-up of the fire situation. As higher-ranking officers arrive, the responsibility for size-up is passed up the chain of command.
d. An accurate and complete size-up must include consideration of the following *strategic factors*. They are:

1. Time of day
   - sleeping occupants
   - rush hour traffic delays in response
   - limited visibility at night
2. Life
   - residential vs. commercial buildings
   - occupied vs. vacant
   - transient vs. permanent residents
   - ambulatory vs. non-ambulatory occupants
3. Area
   - large volume of fire
   - long stretches
4. Height
   - Long stretches
   - Ladder operations
5. Construction
   - Frame buildings
   - Truss roof and floor beams
   - Fire resistive
   - Thermal pane windows
6. Occupancy
   - Public assembly
   - Health care facility
   - Hazardous materials
   - Fuel loading

7. Location and extent of fire
    - cellar
    - cockloft
8. Water supply
    - hydrant spacing
    - hydrant serviceability
9. Street conditions
    - construction
    - elevated roadways
    - overhead wires
10. Auxiliary appliances
    - sprinkler systems
    - standpipe systems
11. Weather
    - wind direction and velocity
    - freezing conditions
    - heat stress
12. Apparatus and equipment
    - available apparatus
    - large caliber streams (LCS)
    - large diameter hose (LDH)
    - foam equipment
13. Exposures
    - six sides to the fire