

# BURLINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #9

### STRUCTURAL SEARCH AND RESCUE

**Purpose:** To ensure personnel are prepared to commence rescue operations upon arrival at an incident while maintaining the highest degree of personal safety for all personnel.

**Scope:** To guide personnel in proper search and rescue techniques.

1. Before entry, follow Burlington Twp. Fire Department Incident Command System procedures, and be sure to follow all department guidelines. Pay special attention to SCBA S.O.G. #21 and Personal Protective Equipment S.O.G #11.
2. Size-up will determine if a search and rescue operation is necessary, and to what degree. i.e., primary search or no search at all.
3. Communications will be kept between team members at all times. A team consists of two Firefighters in complete Personal Protective Equipment.
4. The first team of Firefighters shall:
  - a. Don SCBA
  - b. Have a hand light, a tool, and a hand line.
  - c. Not make entry until a back-up team is in place.
  - d. Utilize at least a 1-1/2" handline.
5. Depending on the extent of the fire and I.C., the search and rescue team will normally start their search with a "right hand search". The search and rescue team notify the interior officer if varying from this pattern.
6. The second team member shall maintain physical contact and sweep and feel for victims with the other hand.
7. If something goes wrong, search and rescue teams shall leave the structure immediately. This may be indicated by the evacuation signal (three long airhorn blasts). Any window or opening may be used as an exit; however, they must notify the entry/operations officer after exiting. Keep track of your air supply. Remember it takes as much air to get out as it took to get in!
8. The search and rescue teams will keep the entry/operations officer updated on progress or lack of progress.

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9. The search and rescue teams will stop and listen for victims. Stop breathing for a moment to silence SCBA from time to time. The team can leave the structure at any time if they feel their lives are in danger!
10. If a victim is found, the team notify the entry/operations officer will leave through the nearest exit with the victim. If possible, a second team will then complete the search after being briefed by the first team. The search and rescue team will stay with the victim until medical help arrives or the I.C. decides otherwise.
11. A secondary search may be necessary as determined by the entry/operations officer of incident commander.

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