



Nine Principals of Fire Attack

Adapted for tinhelmet

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Eager to not re-invent the wheel I am constantly on the lookout for ideas from other fields that can easily be applied to the fire fighting world. I stumbled across this series of principles, the nine principals of war, and decided that they fit the criteria of being both easy and applicable. So here they are. The original version can be found at the following link: <http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/MilSci/BTSI/prinwar.html>

1. Objective

Direct every firefighting operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective.

2. Offensive

Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative

3. Mass

Concentrate firefighting power at the decisive place and time

[Ensure that the first line is stretched, that it is a line of sufficient size, and then ensure that a back-up line is in place, that ventilation is occurring, and that search efforts are underway]

4. Economy of force

Allocate minimum essential firefighting resources to secondary efforts

5. Maneuver

Place the fire in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of firefighting power

[Know what options are available to you, what the limitations of those options are and apply then apply the options decisively with maximum flexibility]

6. Unity of command

For every objective, ensure unity of effort under one responsible commander

7. Security

Never permit the enemy to acquire an advantage

[Of course in our case the fire has the advantage, at least at the beginning. We do not control where the fires are or where they start but we do control how we behave after we are alerted to the call. We control whether or not we lay supply lines in, we control whether or not we run hand lines even when there is nothing evident from the street. By assuming that fire is present and being ready for that we can gain an advantage, an advantage that once gained must never be relinquished.]

8. Surprise

Strike the enemy at a time and/or place and in a manner for which it is unprepared

[We cannot have the element of surprise but we need not be surprised either. Fires burn according to a simple set of physical laws, they do not change behavior based on who is fighting them. When you find fire above you don't be surprised be prepared.]

9. Simplicity

Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and clear, concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.