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Report of the Week

A good 360 is a lifesaver.

2/4/10

Report Number: 10-0000157

Report Date: 01/20/2010 18:04

Synopsis

Good 360 and situational awareness saves crew.

Demographics

Department type: Paid Municipal

Job or rank: Fire Fighter

Department shift: 24 hours on - 48 hours off

Age: 25 - 33

Years of fire service experience: 7 - 10

Region: FEMA Region IV

Service Area: Suburban

Event Information

Event type: Fire emergency event: structure fire, vehicle fire, wildland fire, etc.

Event date and time: 05/08/2008 06:15

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Involved in the event

Weather at time of event: Clear and Dry

Do you think this will happen again?

What were the contributing factors?

- Situational Awareness
- Accountability

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Life threatening injury
- Minor injury
- Lost time injury

Event Description

We were dispatched to structure fire forty-five minutes before shift change. We had personnel from both shifts on the scene. When we arrived on the scene, we found a restaurant on fire and we did a 360. I was the nozzle man on the initial attack. While completing our 360, I noticed several HVAC units on the roof and noted their relation to our entry point. When we entered the building, the visibility was only about three feet. We entered the kitchen and started attacking the fire. A gas line was apparently feeding the fire and we were not making much progress. There was heavy fire underneath the HVAC units, so I advised the crew to move back. We heard the air horn on the engine sound off three times, so we immediately left the building. As we left the building, there was a complete roof collapse in the area our crew had been working. Because of situational awareness, accountability, and safety, we were all able to go home.

A good 360 is a lifesaver.

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Lessons Learned

Always do a 360 and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Keep your crew together so you can exit together and have accountability. There was only a small flame visible over the back door when we made entry. What you see on the outside before making entry can quickly change.

Discussion Questions

Conducting a swift but comprehensive 360 of a structure or other incident scene is an absolute necessity for making good emergency scene decisions. Some officers will dash around a structure on a dead run so that they can say they conducted a 360, however they would have expended energy better spent elsewhere. Cues about the hazard(s) of the scene need to be noted and registered in the officer's strategy, tactics and tasks decisions. A deliberate, focused evaluation of the structure, conditions and resources, at the very least, are essential before operations can actually begin. After you have read the entire account of [10-157](#) and the related reports below, consider the following.

1. Do you conduct a 360 on all structure calls (alarms to working fires), and vehicle collisions? Why or why not?
2. Who taught you how to conduct a 360? Have any of the factors passed along to you had to change because of today's fire and emergency incidents?
3. Do you consider the 360 the most critical first action upon arrival? Why or why not?
4. Are you comfortable letting someone else do the 360 and report back to you or do need to see for yourself?
5. Is one 360 enough for incidents? Why or why not?

Related Reports – Topical Relation: Performing a 360.

[05-470](#) [06-110](#) [07-944](#) [08-489](#) [09-1146](#)

Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.