

Size Up

Purpose

This Operational Method Statement outlines the requirements when conducting a Size Up at all incidents.

Scope

This Operational Method Statement applies to all Operational Personnel.

Actions

1. En-route

1.1. Commence Size Up while en-route to incident.

1.2. Consider the following:

- Any existing pre-plans or Site Specific Risk Information (e.g. flammable cladding, height of structure, hoarding, criminal activity, fuel load, dangerous animals)
- Alarmed premises with keys held on station
- Any further information provided from the Communications Centre
- Local knowledge
- Current and forecast weather conditions
- Time of day
- Potential community exposure and impacts
- Potential infrastructure exposure and impacts
- Consider issuing early Community Information/Warning
- Fire Services jurisdiction
- Potential water points
- Columns of smoke and/or gas clouds.

2. On scene

2.1. Conduct a thorough Size Up within the physical and environmental limitations of the scene.

- 2.1.1. Provide a word back when Size Up is suitably completed. If more time is needed, send a word back of 'investigation'.
- 2.1.2. Incident Controllers should avoid entering dangerous environments during Size Up, including smoke, gas or vapour clouds and potential structural collapse zones.
- 2.1.3. Attempt to conduct a 360o Size Up except where physical and safety limitations exist.
- 2.1.4. Consider requesting other Operational Personnel to assist in completing Size Up if circumstances impede the ability to do this safely, or if the incident is large or complex in nature. Ensure appropriate PPC and PPE is utilised.

2.2. Ensure the following principles are included in Size Up:

- **Facts** – What do you know that is affecting the incident, mitigation and safety?
- **Probabilities** – What is likely to happen, including potential for fire spread and risk to life?
- **Own situation** – Do you have sufficient resources and capabilities? Should you respond more?
- **Decision** – What is your objective for the incident?
- **Plan** – How do you plan to resolve the incident, and what strategies and tactics will be applied?

2.3. Manage any immediate safety hazards and associated risks that become evident during a Size Up by performing a [Safe Person Approach, Dynamic Risk Assessment \(SPADRA\)](#).

2.4. Create an Incident Emergency Management Team (IEMT) with on-scene emergency services and liaise with any on-site representatives, occupants, technicians or witnesses to gather information, such as:

- Nature of premises/occupancy status
- Risk to life and evacuation status
- Fuel types and fuel loads
- Potential exposures
- Known hazards
- Access/egress paths
- On-site intelligence (property plans, Emergency Information book/manifest).

2.4.1. Clarify the role of the on-site building representative/s.

2.5. Utilise B-SAHF during Size Up at a structure fire:

- **Building** – construction style/materials that impact fire behaviour
- **Smoke** – volume, velocity, density, and colour
- **Air track** – inlets and outlets, what is the building ventilation profile?
- **Heat** – blackening/crazing of windows, blistering of paintwork
- **Flame** – colour (yellow/red/blue), indicator of oxygen supply to fire

3. Ongoing Size Up throughout incident

3.1. Continue to apply the Size Up process throughout the duration of the incident.

3.2. Consider utilising other information sources and additional capabilities throughout the incident to gather ongoing intelligence when appropriate, such as:

- Thermal Imaging Cameras
- Aerial appliances
- Spot weather checks
- Atmospheric monitoring, plume modelling and FRV Scientific Advisors
- Structural integrity assessment

- Air observers and Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems
 - Rapid Impact Assessment Teams and Ground Observer Teams.
- 3.3. Additional information gathered during ongoing Size Up should, where appropriate, influence changes in the [Incident Action Plan](#).

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