



**Today's discussion is from the
Fireline Safety Category.**

ATTEMPTING A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON A FIRE

Attempting a frontal assault on a fire is recognized as Watchout Situation #10 and is a potentially dangerous tactic.

- If your tactics include a frontal assault, the following checklist must be adequately addressed before engaging the fire:
 - Has the fire been scouted and sized up? Who will scout and size up a fire and what are they looking for?
 - Is your position defensible? List what makes a firefighter's position defensible. (Anchor points, safety zones, escape routes, etc.)
 - Are escape routes and safety zones adequate? Review what constitutes an adequate safety zone and escape route.
 - Do you have an anchor point? How would you establish an anchor point for a frontal assault on a fire?

 - Do you have adequate resources to complete the assault? Discuss things you need to consider; for example, if the frontal assault fails, do you have backup?
 - Are you informed on strategy, tactics, and hazards? Consider what could happen if someone has a different approach than you; i.e., the IC has a burnout operation planned while you are attempting frontal assault.
 - Is the terrain favorable to holding the fire? Discuss ways the terrain will influence where you will make a stand.
 - Are you relying on aircraft for support operation? Any operation, especially frontal assault, should not need air resources to be safe.

- In order to reduce the risks, reassess your tactics, post lookouts, identify situations in which firefighters may be enticed to attempt frontal assault on a fire. Review why this may or may not be a good idea.

References:

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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