



Today's discussion is from the LCES (Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) Category.

ESCAPE ROUTES (part 3)

A primary objective of every operational fire plan is to keep firefighters out of entrapment situations. However, firefighters must always be prepared to escape quickly to a safety zone or deployment area. Consider the following during discussion of escape from possible entrapment.

- Have a plan that includes trigger points!
 - **Trigger Point:** An observable event that triggers a pre-determined action.
Example: Temperature reaches 98 Degrees and RH goes into single digests the crew will follow the established escape route to the safety zone.
- Reassess escape routes throughout the operational period.
 - Has access to escape routes become more difficult as the day progresses?
 - Do you have more than one escape route?
 - Are all escape routes clearly marked?
 - Are all firefighters familiar with the escape routes?
- During an escape time will be short. Describe considerations you might make in this situation such as:
 - Maintain control of all critical equipment such as PPE and radio... jettison gear that will not aid in your escape!
 - Maintain contact with all other crewmembers!
- Describe your vision of a good safely zone. How is that different from a deployment area?
- You should always know the location of your escape routes leading to and safety zones and deployment areas.

References:

["LCES and Other Thoughts" by Paul Gleason](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

[ONLINE](#) | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

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