



Today's discussion is from the
Wildland / Urban Interface Category.

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE -- STRUCTURE PROTECTION

The primary consideration of any operation is to assure firefighter and public safety. It is a must to assess potential fire behavior, ingress/egress routes, nature of the threat, hazardous materials, and available water supplies before engaging in the protection of any structure.

- Factors that may make an attempt to save a structure hopeless or too dangerous include:
 - The fire is making a sustained run and there is little or no clearance between the structure and the fuel.
 - The fire behavior is extreme; spot fires are numerous and the spread is outpacing containment.
 - Water supply will not last as long as the threat of the fire.
 - The fire intensity dictates that you leave the fire area immediately.
 - The structure is constructed of wood and has a wood, shake roof.
 - The roof of the structure is more than one-quarter involved.
 - There is fire inside of the structure or windows are broken and there is no way to quickly repair them.
 - You can safely remain at the structure because your escape route could become unusable.

- When implementing a plan to protect structures, consider the following:
 - Don't enter a burning structure unless you are trained, equipped, and authorized. Firefighter safety and survival is the number one priority.
 - Always stay mobile and wear all of your PPE.
 - Back in equipment to allow for a quick escape.
 - Coil a short, charged line with fog nozzle on your engine for safety and quick knock down capability.
 - Don't make long hose lays. Keep at least 100 gallons of water reserve in your tank.
 - Check the road system before the fire approaches. Know bridge limits, alternate access routes, and turnarounds for your vehicle and other support vehicles.
 - Determine if residents are home. Leave on the inside and outside lights, regardless of the time of day. Close the garage door.
 - Place the owners' ladder at a corner of the home on the side with the least fire threat.
 - Coil and charge garden hoses.
 - Check and mark hazmat; e.g., LPG, pesticides, and paint storage.

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#) pages 12-14 (2010 version)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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