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Snapshot Size-Up #113



360° Size-Up

When responding to a structure fire, try to achieve a multi-sided view of the fire building while en route. Upon arrival, make sure at least one company or individual completes a 360° size-up and checks the rear for any hazards, egress points, endangered occupants or unusual circumstances. More times than not, the conditions in the front of a structure totally contradict those in the rear. Be sure that your findings have been reported to the Incident Commander either in person or via radio (with acknowledgement of receipt from the IC).

For an exclusive article on the importance of the 360-Degree size-up, visit the training resources section at www.FireOpsOnline.com

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Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso is a twenty-year veteran of the fire service. He is a regular contributor to Fire Engineering Magazine & FireOpsOnline.com. He is also co-author of the book Fireground Operational Guides (PennWell 2011). The book features universal tactical worksheets and operational guides for more than 70 incidents that range from water, gas and electrical emergencies to multiple-alarm structure fires.