

Test Your Knowledge - Chief Officer

PROMOTIONAL SCENARIOS FOR THE CHIEF OFFICERS

Conflicting Radio Reports

The exercise below is citing an often-experienced area of concern within our taxpayer, strip mall and store occupancies. More specifically; multiple ceilings, rain roofs, high ceilings, and the overall concern with concealed spaces, which are often found in taxpayers, strip malls, supermarkets, bowling alleys, factories, and warehouses, etc.

Scenario: You are operating at a 1 story, Class 3/ Ordinary Taxpayer when you receive the following conflicting radio reports:

Radio report # 1 – *“Interior to Command, we have heavy smoke, no visible fire, and increasing heat within the building.”*

Radio report # 2 – *“Roof to Command, the roof has been opened with only light to moderate smoke showing from all openings.”*

Read the test question below and provide your answers in the workspace. The answer key can be found on page two.

Test Question: *What concerns do you have and what actions will you take?*

Workspace:





FireOpsOnline.com

Your Online Resource for Free Fire Training, Drills, and Tips

Conflicting Radio Reports; Answer Key

Concerns may be:

- A possible rain roof installed on top of and over the buildings original roof.
- Multiple/suspended ceilings within the store proper, or
- Fire in the basement. (*Possibly combined with one of the above*)

Your Actions (Barring anymore information; radioed, visual, or other) should include:

- Resources would need to be alerted to the concerns.
- Resources need to be directed to correct the concerns.
- Seek progress reports and assess the attempt and/or completion to correct the concerns.

In the event that situation presents deteriorating conditions, withdraw all forces from the building or effected area.

Conflicting radio reports are common occurrences in the buildings described. In a testing and/or educational environment, a knowledgeable or capable student should at least recognize the conflicting report and begin to diagnose the concern through further actions and orders. These are very measurable and creditable actions. This example is attempting to indicate to the student that fire is in a concealed space, or at the very least in an area that is not located yet. Furthermore, it is pointing toward an extremely dangerous situation if not recognized and acted upon. Let's take this one step further: If on the other hand, the student recognizes that a radio report conflict exists and simply opts out for a "*complete withdrawal from the building*"; this may be deemed an acceptable response to some, but may also be viewed as a lack of experience by others. Think about it..... The fire service experiences many of these actual situations in older commercial occupancies, most notably the taxpayer, supermarket or retail type occupancy on a regular basis. Barring more information from the exercise or actual incident, simply blanketing a statement that removes firefighters from a building every time a conflict in radio information exists could very well be viewed as a poor response for an Incident Commander. Whether taking a promotional exam or commanding an operation in the street, we must demand a level of knowledge and experience in our leaders that is second to none! The key to this exercise is Building Construction, Building Construction.....followed by more Building Construction.....you can never know enough!



Michael Terpak is a 35 year veteran of the fire service and a Deputy Chief with the Jersey City Fire Department. Terpak travels extensively around the country lecturing on fire related topics. He is the founder of Promotional Prep, a NJ based consulting firm designed to prepare firefighters and officers for promotional exams. He is the author of three bestselling books including Fireground Operational Guides (with DC Frank Viscuso, PennWell 2011). The book features a universal tactical worksheet for structure fires and operational guides for over 70 incidents that range from water, gas and electrical emergencies to multiple-alarm structure fires. (available at FireOpsOnline.com)