

# New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 400      Ensuring Member's Safety

PURPOSE:    To ensure the safe operation on the fire ground.

SCOPE:        All Department Members

SPECIFICS:

- No property is worth the life of a fire department member:
  - Fire department members shall NOT be committed to interior fire fighting operations in any structure that is obviously abandoned, derelict, known or reasonably believed to be unoccupied.
  - Fire department members shall NOT make entry into a hazardous environment without the material or substance being identified for other than life saving purposes, and then, only with appropriate training and equipment.
  - Fire department members shall NOT make entry into an unshored or collapsed structure or trench for other than immediate life safety reasons, and then only with appropriate training and equipment.
  
- Fire department members recognize a basic level of risk involved in the performance of their duties:
  - No level of risk is acceptable in situations where there is no potential to save lives or property.
  
- A higher level of risk is acceptable only when there is a realistic potential to save known endangered lives:
  - An acceptance of an elevated risk shall be limited to operations that are specifically directed towards rescue where there is a realistic potential to save person's lives known to be in danger.

DATE: 2013-03-17