

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Christopher Kassel [ckassel@washougalfire.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:05 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 141 - Draft NIOSH Alert: Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters When Fighting Fires in Unoccupied Structures

NIOSH

I feel the article to be interesting but need to be evaluated further. I would like to see a more extensive search into the findings of this report. I feel that looking at six fires is not enough to base such a critical part of the duties and task assigned to firefighting. I also am having trouble grasping the concept of an unoccupied structure at what point do we know the structure is unoccupied. Especially with the economy the way it is these days who knows if a vacant structure is or is not occupied. I feel we need to spend more training on risk analysis and risk vs benefit for command personal in place of putting a blanket law in place.

I also feel the definition of offensive attack has been used incorrectly with in this article. The use of offensive attack being anything with in the collapse zone is a far fetched statement. I feel that pushing water through an exterior window or gable end needs to be done from an effective position. I feel Offensive attack is done on the interior of the structure. Finally I feel there needs to be visual opinion of the situation. If there is a small fire or room and contents fire that can preserve the majority of the belongings of the family then it is my duty to safely and effectively perform this task. I don't feel this article separates these fires out of its equation.

Thank you for your time.

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