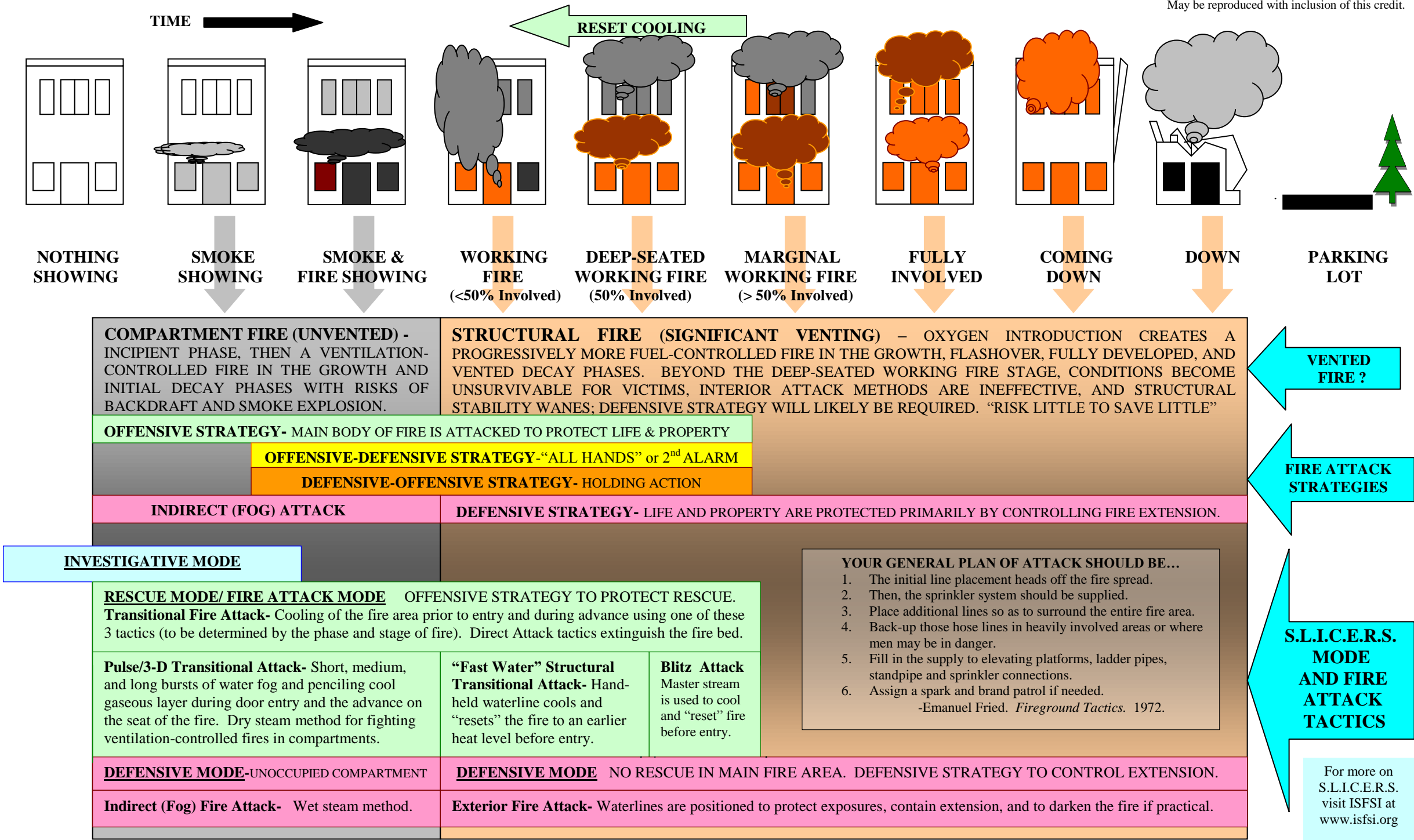


BUILDING FIRE STAGES AND FIRE ATTACK STRATEGY AND TACTICS

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OFFENSIVE STRATEGY	OFFENSIVE-DEFENSIVE STRATEGY	DEFENSIVE-OFFENSIVE STRATEGY	DEFENSIVE STRATEGY	INDIRECT (FOG) ATTACK (DEFENSIVE STRATEGY)
Companies operate to promptly contain and extinguish the fire to protect search and rescue. Fire attack is directed at the main body of fire, typically inside the building (compartment and structural fires), but possibly on the exterior threatening a structure/occupants. Resources, including water flow and supply, are sufficient to control the fire. Interior fires are cooled prior to advance using one of the Transitional Fire Attack tactics: Pulse/3-D (Compartments), “Fast Water” Structural, or Blitz. Direct Attack tactics extinguish the fire. Often a single alarm strategy.	Control being probable, companies conduct an offensive attack to extinguish the main body of fire. Additional companies are assigned to control extension. This is the strategy often employed to fight fires in row houses and other multi-unit dwellings. Key limiting factor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without intervention, fire has an immediate route to extend quickly to new areas. Offensive-Defensive Strategy overcomes this limiting factor and is frequently the framework of “All Hands” and second alarm fires.	A “Holding Action” initiated to contain fire extension and protect life safety until adequate water flow, water supply, personnel, and other resources are available to conduct an offensive attack on the main body of fire. This is an effective strategy for evacuating sections of a building that may have poor egress during fire suppression; floors above a basement fire or above the fire floor in a high-rise building for example.	Companies control fire extension and protect persons and property from the effects of the main body of fire. Exterior Fire Attack tactics flow water onto exposures, then contain and extinguish the fire, but without the advancing maneuvers of the offensive attacks. Searches and interior firefighting tactics are employed only within exposure buildings. Large flow rates and water supplies may be needed. Anticipate the worst: establish collapse zones and deny entry.	A water fog stream is introduced into an unoccupied compartment via a small opening using a circular motion of the nozzle for 30 seconds to produce steam. The opening is closed. After one minute the compartment is opened for ventilation and overhaul. An effective backdraft and smoke explosion prevention strategy during the initial decay (smoldering) phase of unventilated fires. Water fog is introduced at a rate of 1 G.P.M. per 100 cubic ft. (Iowa Formula)

FIRE STRATEGY- An operational framework within which suitable tactics and tasks are employed to mitigate a fire incident and achieve the objective of protecting life and property. Limiting (strategic) factors are evaluated and prioritized to determine the Fire Strategy. The five fundamental Fire Strategies are described above.

SELECTING FIRE STRATEGY

LIMITING (STRATEGIC) FACTORS- Identify the one or two most critical conditions, the limiting factors, which need to be either:

- Overcome to reach a favorable outcome.
- Accepted as limits to the formulation of the operational plan.

Select the Fire Strategy that best achieves the Strategic (Tactical) Priorities... 1. LIFE SAFETY/ RESCUE
2. INCIDENT STABILIZATION/ FIRE CONTROL
3. PROPERTY CONSERVATION/ SALVAGE

...while overcoming or operating within the limitations of the most critical conditions. Improve safety and effectiveness by assuring all personnel are assigned and operating within the strategic framework. Collect progress reports and amend strategic, tactical, and task assignments as necessary.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY FORMULA---NEEDED FIRE FLOW

N.F.F. in G.P.M. = ({L’ X W’} ÷3) + 25% for each exposed side and floor above. Flow estimate for the Direct Attack on the involved fire area using lead-off and back-up lines during all Transitional Fire Attacks. This estimate is most accurate for up to 50% involvement of a structure and flows not in excess of 1,000 GPM. Effective “Reset” cooling decreases interior heat and fire volume, which may reduce Needed Fire Flow.

TOTAL WATER SUPPLY- Minimum 2,000 gallons; 3,000 gallons with exposures. See NFPA 1142

DETERMINE PHASE OF FIRE TO SELECT FIRE ATTACK

TRANSITIONAL FIRE ATTACKS

S.L.I.C.E.R.S. Tactical Guideline

Size-up fire • Locate fire • Identify and control ventilation flow path • Cool heated space from safe location • Extinguish fire • Rescue • Salvage

FLOW RATES OF ATTACK WATERLINES

ROUNDED FOR TACTICAL PLANNING PURPOSES

	Combination Nozzle	Smooth Bore Nozzle
1 ¾”	up to 134 GPM	175 GPM
2”	up to 200 GPM	200 GPM+
2 ½”	up to 250 GPM (Bresnan also)	250 GPM+
3” to multiversal	300 GPM+	400 GPM+

Adapted from:
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