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## **10 Fireground Command Best Practices<sup>©</sup>**

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### **1. Prioritize incoming information.**

- a. Smoke (fire) condition.
- b. Construction / decomposition of structure.
- c. Speed the incident is moving.
- d. Realistic assessment of savable lives.

### **2. Set strategy and tactics based on the quality and quantity of staffing.**

- a. The size-up must be constant.
- b. Do not lock on to a strategy or tactics until adequate help arrives.
- c. Consider the risk to the benefit.

### **3. Stay focused on the big picture incident.**

### **4. Do not perform firefighter duties.**

- 5. Never miss communications from your most at-risk companies.**
  - a. Commanders cannot effectively listen to, and comprehend, multiple conversations simultaneously.
  - b. The stimulus closest to the commander will occupy his or her attention.
  
- 6. Command from a vehicle or a remote location but maintain a visual fix on the incident.**
  
- 7. Control distractions and interruptions.**
  - a. Call a personal time out
  - b. Don't be a high-profile target
  
- 8. Use a command aide/advisor/team.**

**9. Develop and maintain a strong command presence.**

- a. Control your emotions (excitement, frustration, anger, ego).
- b. Control your people.
- c. Be clear and concise with your orders.
- d. Keep track of your people and what they are doing.
- e. Keep track of the passage of time and the speed of the incident.
- f. Develop “meta-awareness.”

**10. Accelerate command knowledge and expertise.**

- a. Training that is realistic and repetitive.
- b. Simulation.
- c. Near-Miss Reports.
- d. Case Studies
- e. LODD Reports.
- f. Mentorship program.
- g. Post-incident evaluations.