

# SEARCH – LARGE AREA

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Know your role and COMMUNICATE!
- Search team size can be scaled from 2 members up to 7.
- Common applications: Structure with large open areas, structures with multiple partitions, intersecting hallways, or complex interiors.
- Officers: allow for exit time to complete these searches, they will take a long time.
- Almost all Large Area Searches will involve using untethered searchers off an anchored rope or hose, but we still have the rings and tethers to use traditionally.

## PROTOCOL:

A hose or rope is used as an anchor point that leads to the outside or an absolutely safe area inside the building. The searcher(s) is untethered and conducts search operations off the anchor line using it as a reference while the officer stays oriented and monitors. Searchers move off the trunk line as needed and directed. Searchers may tether a rope for parts of the operation as needed. Searchers actively communicate with the officer throughout the operation. The officer will then adjust the plan and path based on those findings and what the fire is doing.

| <b><u>Officer considerations</u></b>   | <b><u>Firefighter considerations</u></b>   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walk in/out when possible.</li><li>• Tie the rope off with any change in direction.</li><li>• Closely monitor all air supplies.</li><li>• Closely monitor location in the building.</li><li>• Consider rope or hose damage.</li><li>• Be ready to employ traditional search methods.</li><li>• Consider alternative exit options.</li><li>• Order replacement crews early.</li><li>• Consider better entry points for secondary crews.</li><li>• Travel with your left hand on the rope while entering and exiting.</li><li>• Brief other companies reliving you – try not to allow duplication.</li><li>• Mark searched areas (see marking protocol).</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walk in/out when possible.</li><li>• Closely monitor your air supply.</li><li>• Communicate well. Remember the officer may not be able to see you; "Over there" is confusing, etc.</li><li>• Closely monitor location in the building.</li><li>• Be ready to employ traditional search methods.</li><li>• Consider alternative exit options.</li><li>• Look for other ways in / out.</li><li>• Travel with your left hand on the rope while entering and exiting.</li><li>• Mark searched areas (see marking protocol).</li><li>• Be ready to deploy a tether when needed.</li></ul> |