It is standard operating procedure to attempt to stabilize fire conditions by using appropriate suppression tactics, such as, an aggressive interior attack or a transitional attack. Supporting these tactics with available resources will help to reduce fire extension and bring the fire under control.

**A critical decision to be made (both initial and on-going) requires choosing one of the following strategies: Offensive, Transitional, or Defensive**

- **Offensive Attack Strategy** – Interior attack and related support directed toward quickly conducting a search for victims and/or bringing the fire under control.
- **Transitional Attack Strategy** – Combination of exterior and interior attack methods to “re-set” the fire and reduce flashover conditions for the interior crews and victims.
- **Defensive Attack Strategy** – Exterior attack directed to first reduce fire extension, protect exposures, and then bring the fire under control.

The first company on the scene should establish command, rapid 360° size-up, and declare which strategy is being used as part of the on-scene report. Other responding companies can then have an understanding of on-going operations before arrival.

**The offensive/defensive strategy or the use of the transitional attack is based upon a standard risk management profile evaluating:**

- Fire location
- Fire extent
- Structural conditions
- Entry capability
- Ventilation profile
- Rescue profile of occupants
- Resources profile

**Basic Offensive Plan Considerations**

- Perform a 360° size-up with TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera)
- Identify critical fireground factors
- Establish Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
First line – fast, aggressive interior attack
Provide support activities (ventilation and/or forcible entry)
Do primary search
Second line – Backup first line, protect search crews, or use as a 2\textsuperscript{nd} attack line
Establish a dedicated water supply
Continuously evaluate for success and react if needed

**Transitional Attack Plan Considerations**

*Utilized on a structure in pre or post flashover conditions with visible flames venting from one or more openings. The Transitional Attack can be utilized multiple times if fire growth continues over a 90 second period.*

- Perform a rapid 360° size-up with TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera)
- First line – Deploy to vented fire location – exterior application
- Establish Rapid Intervention Team
- Provide Support Activities (ventilation and/or forcible entry)
- Second line – Deploy using a coordinated, aggressive interior attack
- Do a Primary Search
- Third Line (or consider using first line) – Backup the second line, protect search crews, or second attack line
- Establish a dedicated water supply
- Continuously evaluate for success and react if needed

**Basic Defensive Plan Considerations**

- Perform a rapid 360° size-up with TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera)
- Evaluate fire spread/write-off lost property
- Identify critical fireground factors
- Prioritize fire streams to protect exposures
- Provide large, well placed streams
- Establish a dedicated water supply
- Quick determination on additional resources
- Surround and Drown
- Continuously evaluate for success and react if needed

The safety of firefighting personnel represents the major reason for an effective and well-timed offensive/defensive decision or the use of the transitional attack. All of these strategies are based on a standard risk management plan that is to be employed at all structure fires.

- We may risk our lives a lot to protect savable lives.
- We may risk our lives a little to protect savable property.