
Continuing Education for the Fire Fighter



Structural Search, Victim Removal, and Firefighter Survival Module 2

Chapter 9



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Explain firefighter survival methods.

Describe the actions of a rapid intervention crew or team (RIC/RIT) when locating a downed firefighter.

Explain what survival actions firefighters can take when needed.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate the actions required for transmitting a MAYDAY report.

Demonstrate the actions required for withdrawing from a hostile environment with a hoseline.

Demonstrate the proper procedures for an SCBA air emergency.

Demonstrate the side technique for low profile maneuvers without removing SCBA.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Perform the SCBA-first technique for low profile maneuvers without removing SCBA.

Demonstrate the steps for disentangling from debris or wires.

Demonstrate the method for breaching an interior wall.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



THE LIVES OF ALL FIREFIGHTERS DEPEND ON SURVIVAL SKILLS.



PREVENTION-BASED SURVIVAL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SURVIVAL TECHNIQUE.

Read fire, anticipate development

Anticipate location, extent of fire

Identify construction type and potential collapse

Locate entry and alternate exits



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



PREVENTION-BASED SURVIVAL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SURVIVAL TECHNIQUE.

Perform risk/benefit analysis

Anticipate interior changes

Determine resources needed to finish quickly

Check your own and team's air supply

Determine “two in, two out” rule

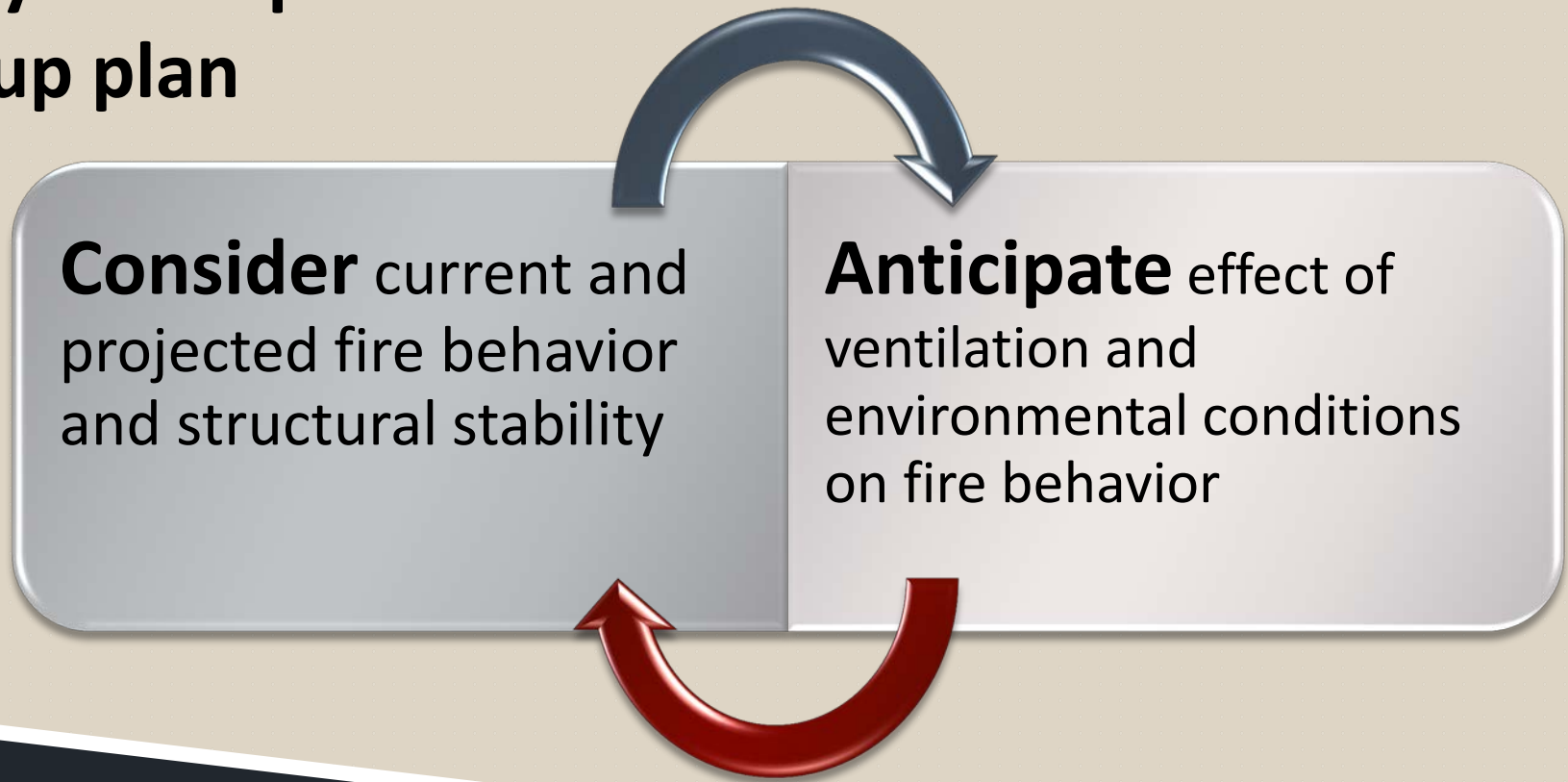


ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



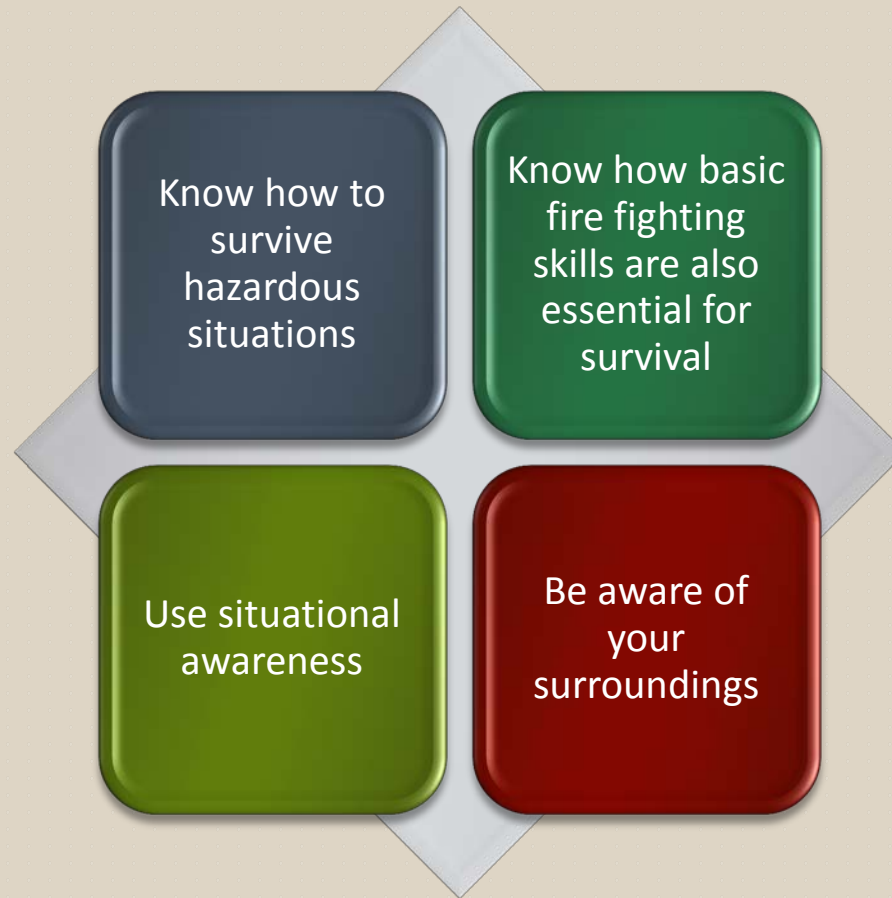
FOLLOW THESE OTHER IMPORTANT GUIDELINES BEFORE AND DURING INTERIORS OPERATIONS.

**Always have plan and a
backup plan**

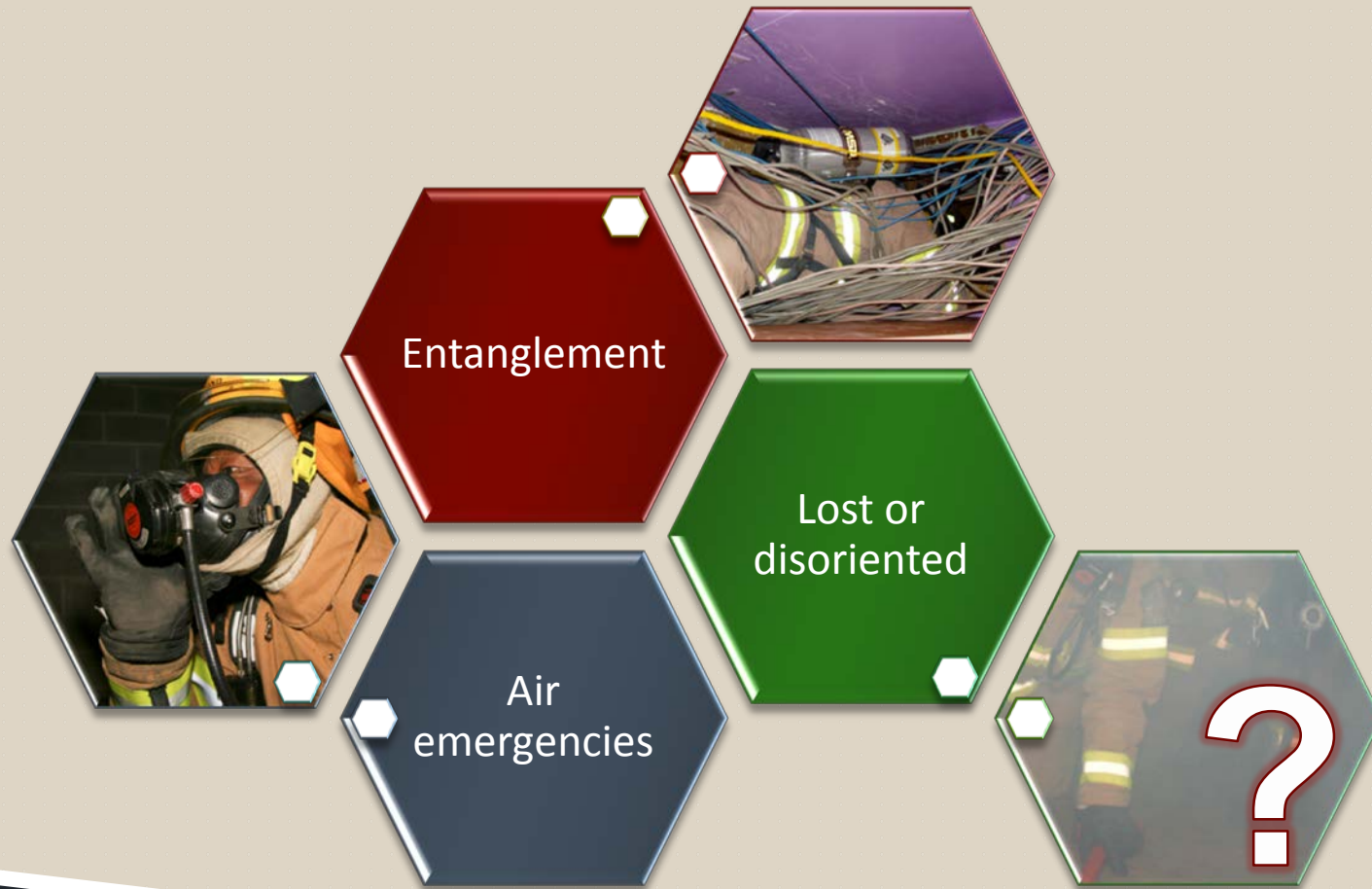


ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WHEN PRACTICING SURVIVAL PREPARATION.



RECOGNIZING MAYDAY SITUATIONS IS VITAL TO FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL.



*Courtesy of Iowa State
Fire Training Bureau*



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



RECOGNIZING MAYDAY SITUATIONS IS THE NEXT STEP IN FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL.



Thermal
emergencies

Collapse/
trapped



Courtesy of Rhett Strain/ OSU-FST



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



IMMEDIATE COMMUNICATION INCREASES THE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

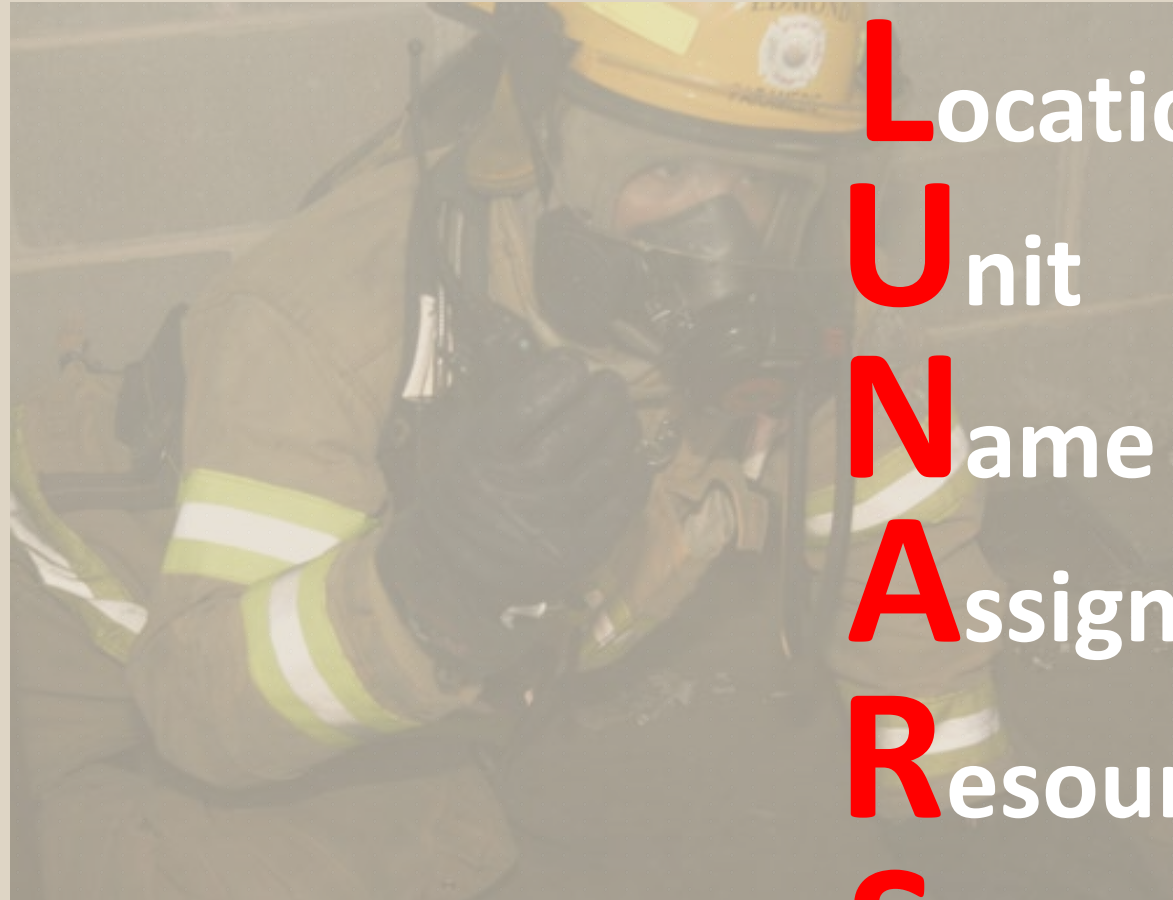
1. Describe problem
2. Give location
3. Remain in place

If in immediate danger:

1. Transmit MAYDAY
2. Activate PASS
3. Communicate with IC



USE THE ACRONYM LUNARS TO REMEMBER
WHAT INFORMATION TO COMMUNICATE.



Location

Unit

Name

Assignment

Resources needed

Situation



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WHENEVER A MAYDAY IS BROADCAST.

1. MAYDAY
radio traffic
only

2. Radio
channel
allocated for
MAYDAY

3.
Nonessential
activities cease
and search
begins

4. RIC/RIT
dispatched



LISTEN CLOSELY TO RADIO TRANSMISSIONS BEING MADE.

May be able to assist downed firefighter nearby

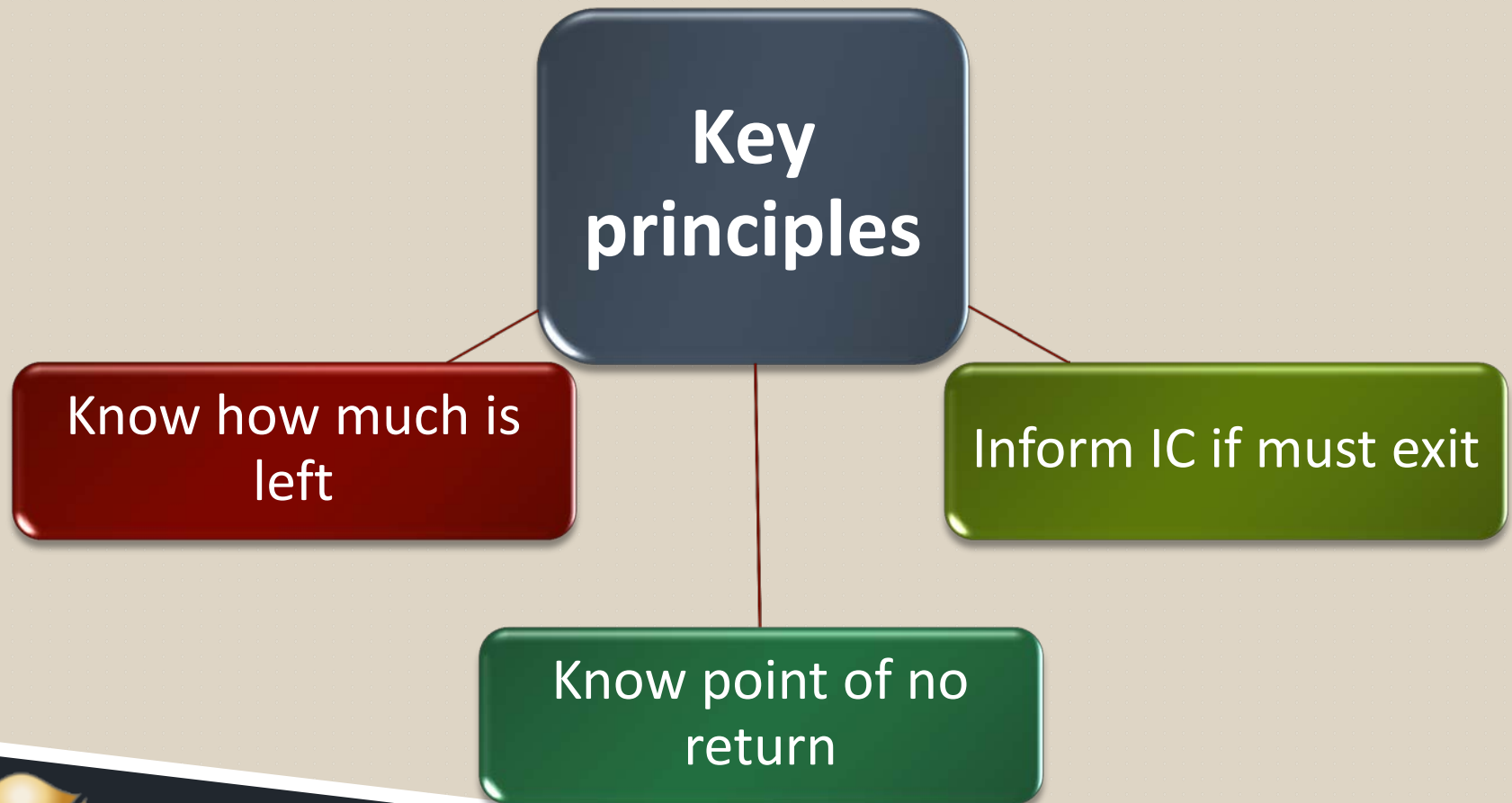
Follow orders, do not freelance

IC may order personnel to exit

Must recognize department evacuation signals



PROPER AIR MANAGEMENT ALLOWS FIREFIGHTERS TO EXIT IDLH AREAS SAFELY.



CHECK AIR GAUGE REGULARLY AND KNOW
YOUR POINT OF NO RETURN.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

INDIVIDUAL FIREFIGHTERS CAN DECIDE TO LEAVE ONLY UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

As an individual

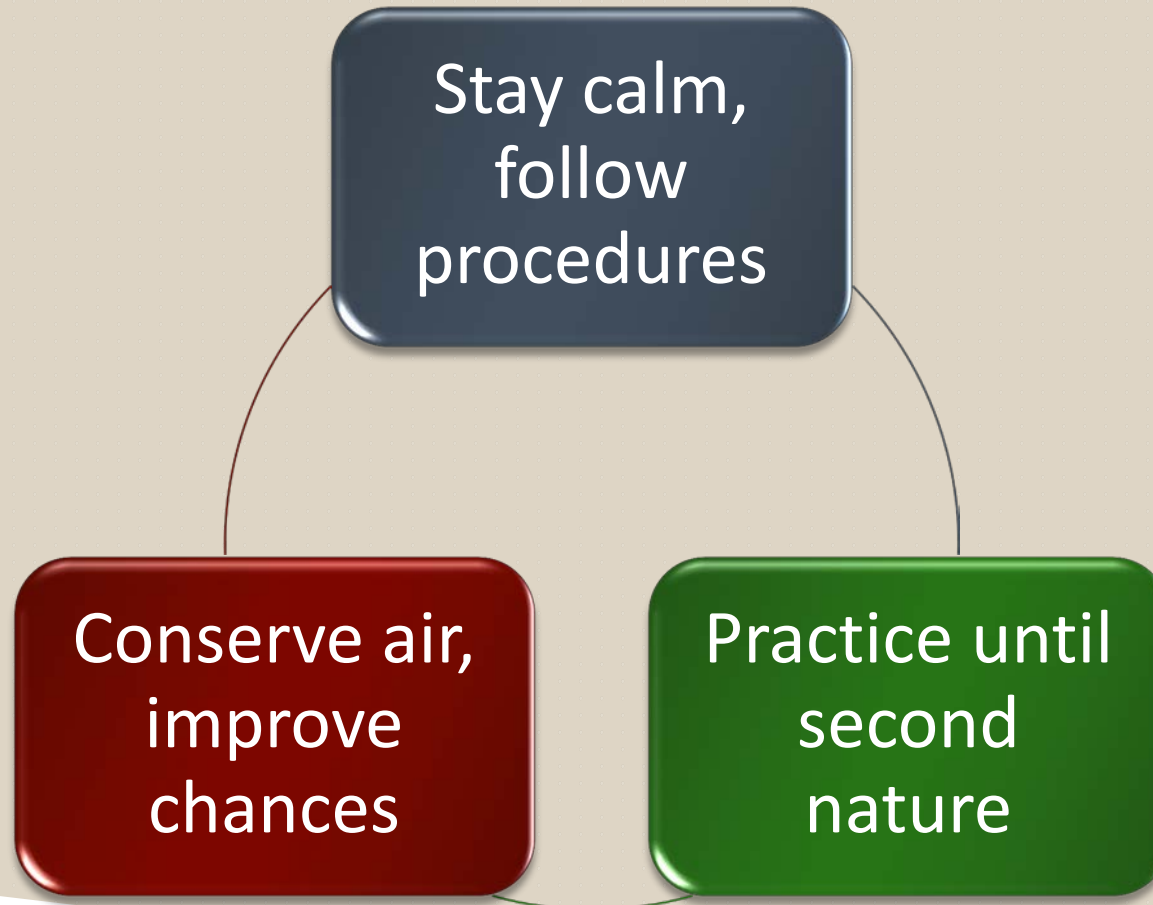
- Only if separated or catastrophic event

As a team

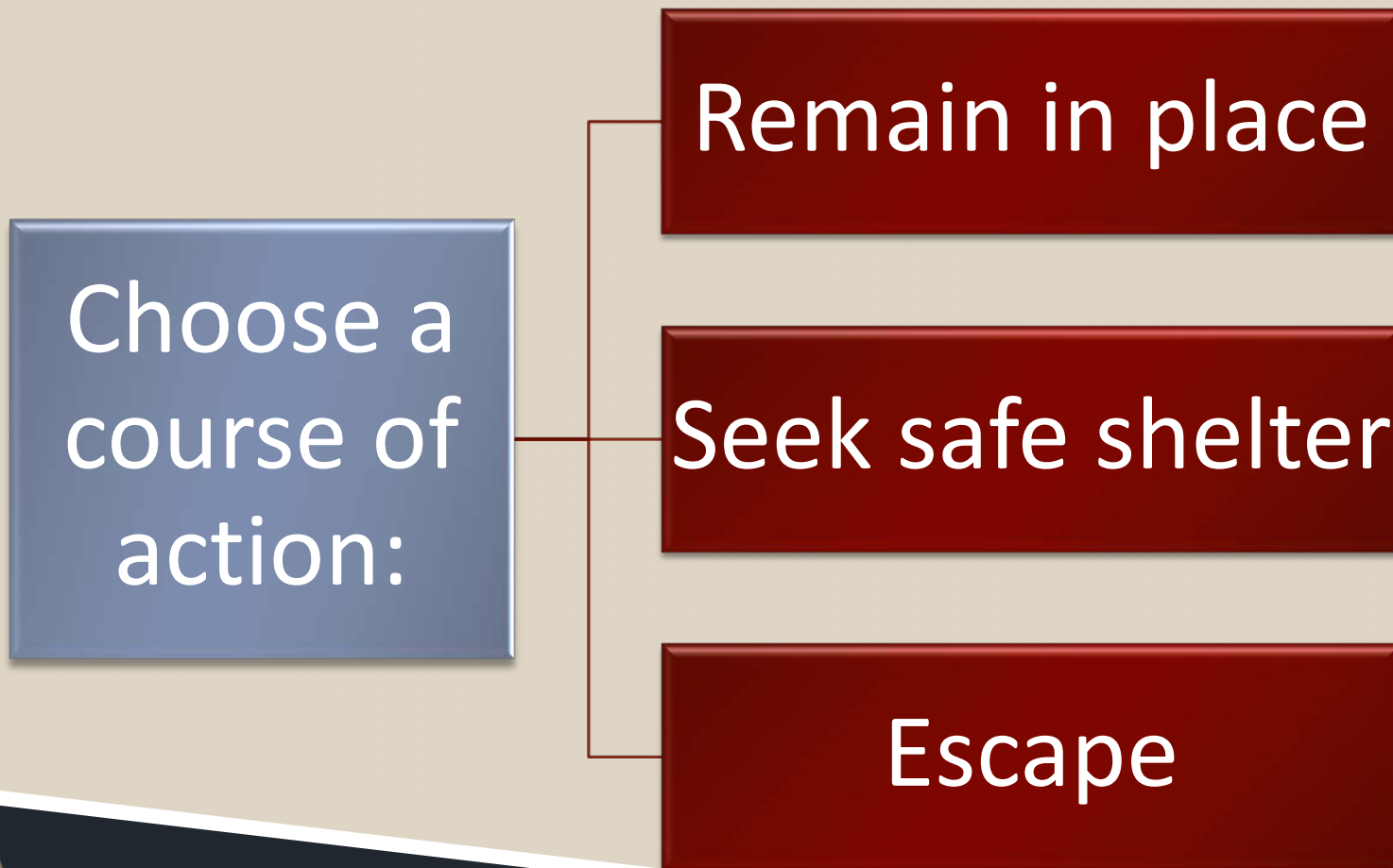
- If receive a command from IC or supervisor



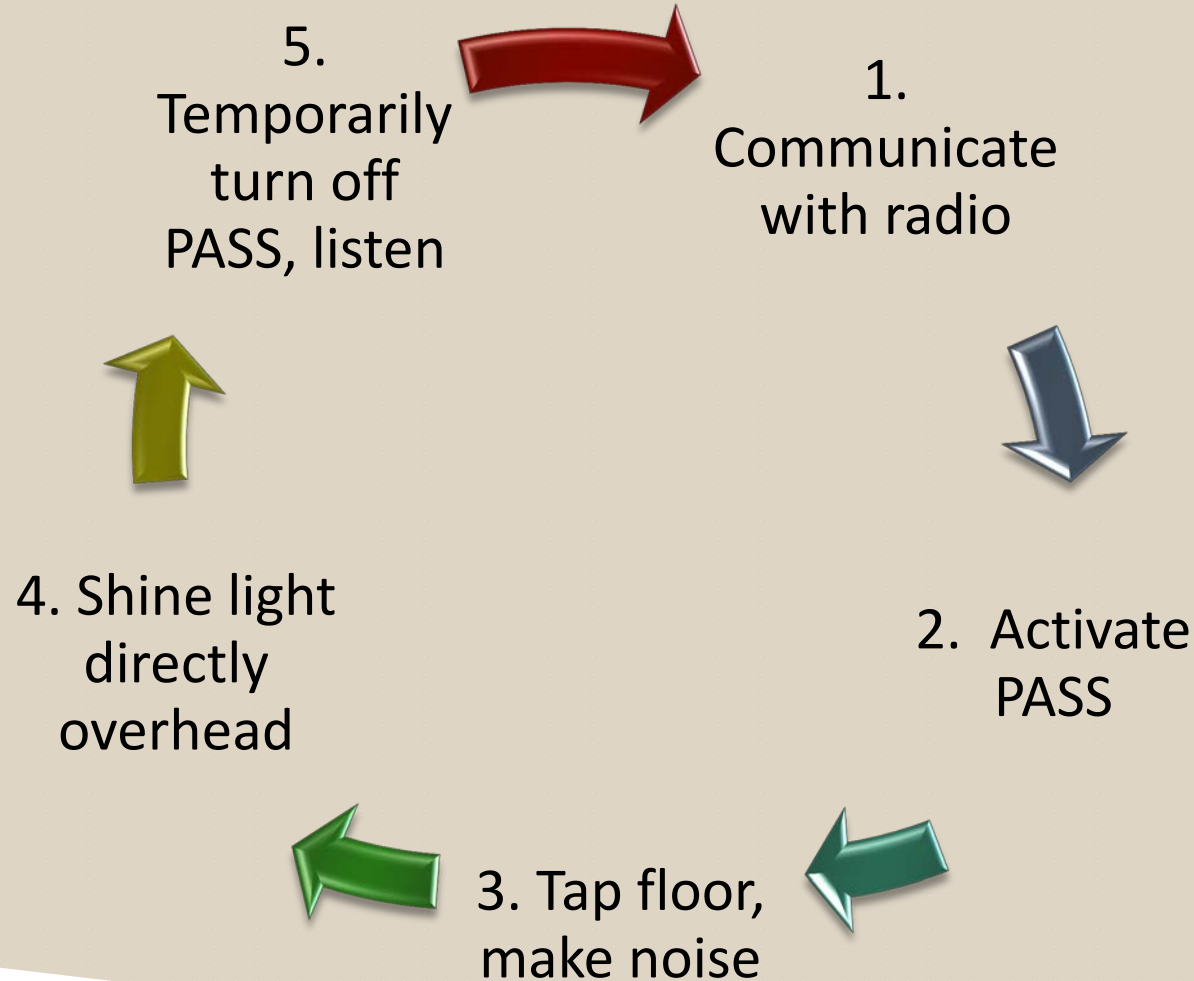
KNOWING HOW TO REACT IN AN AIR EMERGENCY IS ESSENTIAL.



TO SURVIVE A MAYDAY EVENT, MONITOR YOUR
SURROUNDINGS AND USE SITUATIONAL
AWARENESS.



WHEN REMAINING IN PLACE, STAY CALM, BREATH SLOWLY, AND STAY LOW.



SEEKING SAFE SHELTER MEANS TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OR BUYING TIME FOR ESCAPE.

Stay low

Use hose stream, but this can also be dangerous

Close doors to fire

Shore building materials with tools

Filter toxic air with protective hood as last resort



ESCAPE IS THE BEST SURVIVAL OPTION IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Imminent threat of collapse

No safe shelter

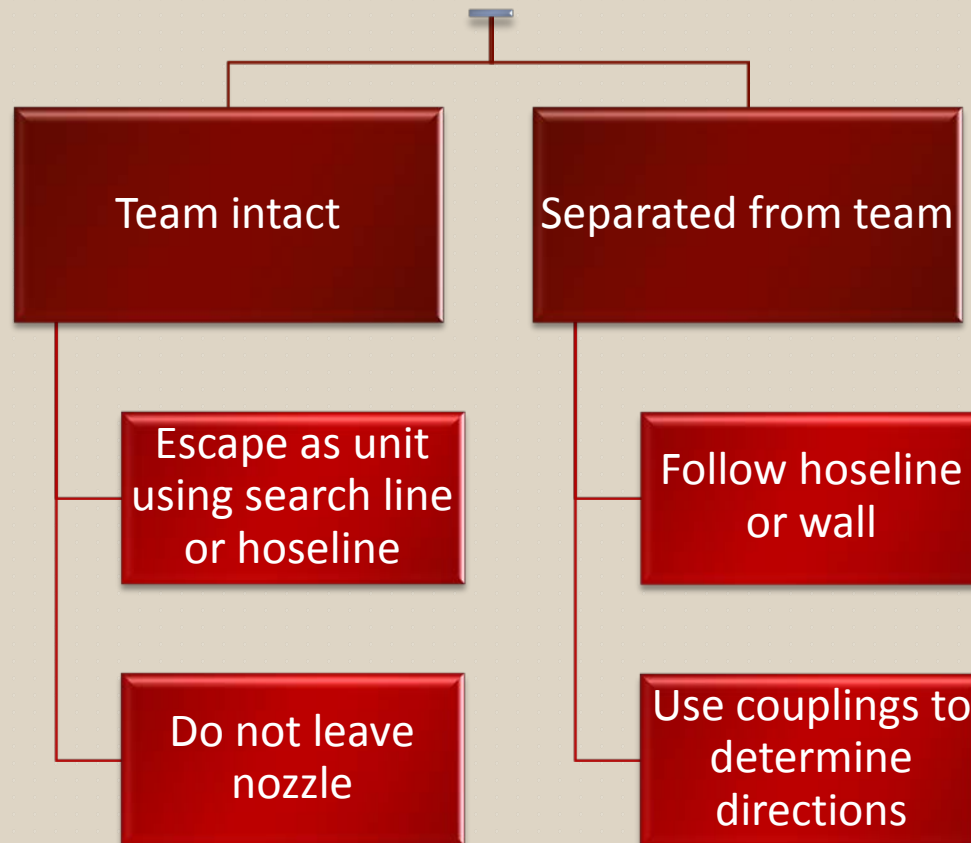
Air supply exhausted

Extreme fire conditions imminent

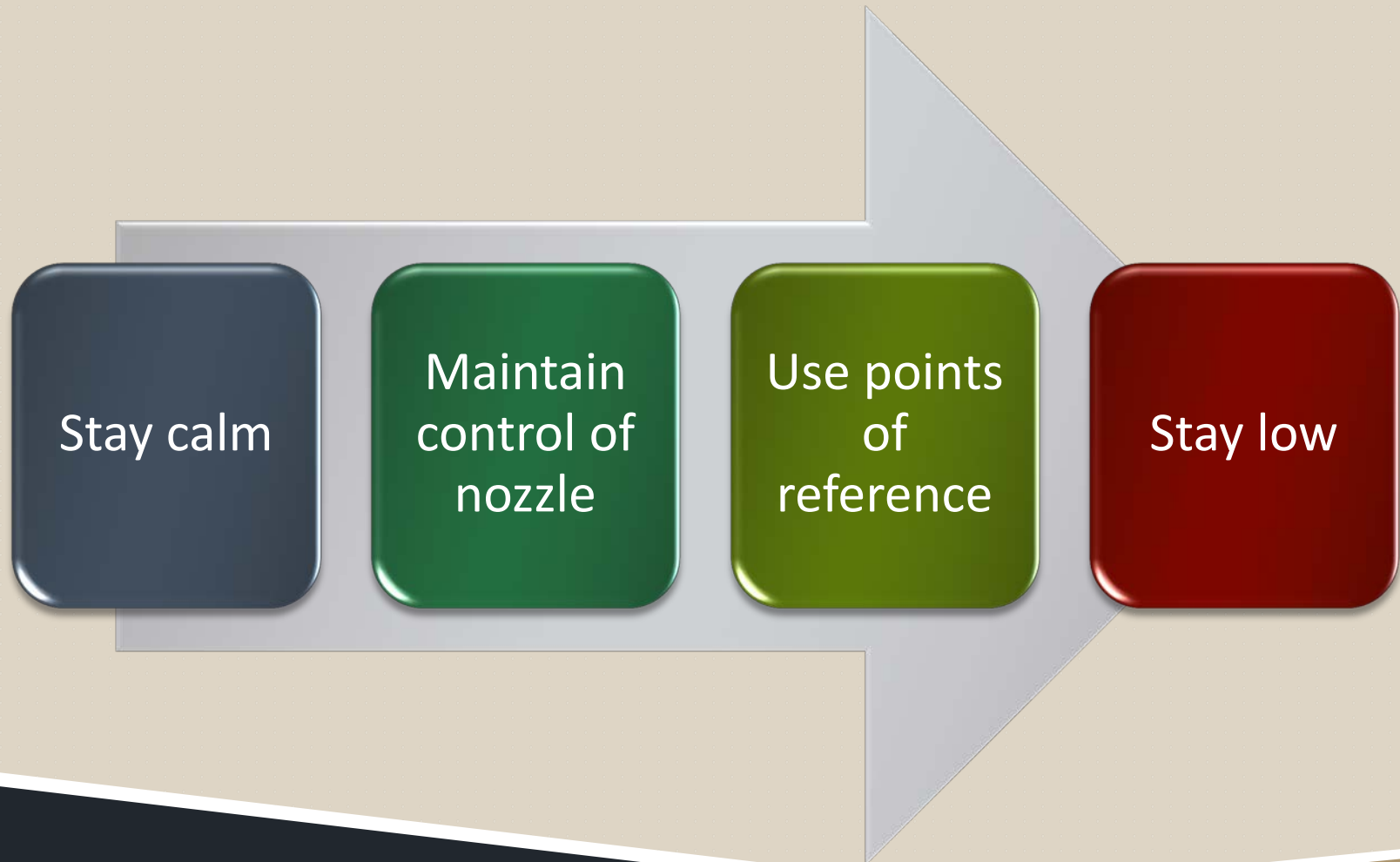
Receive order to abandon structure



ESCAPE REQUIRES TEAMWORK AND PRACTICE TO KNOW ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.



FOLLOW THESE GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES WHEN ESCAPING A STRUCTURE.



FOLLOW THESE GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES WHEN ESCAPING A STRUCTURE.



USE DUCK WALK OR LOW PROFILE MANEUVER IN THICK, DENSE SMOKE.



Crawling

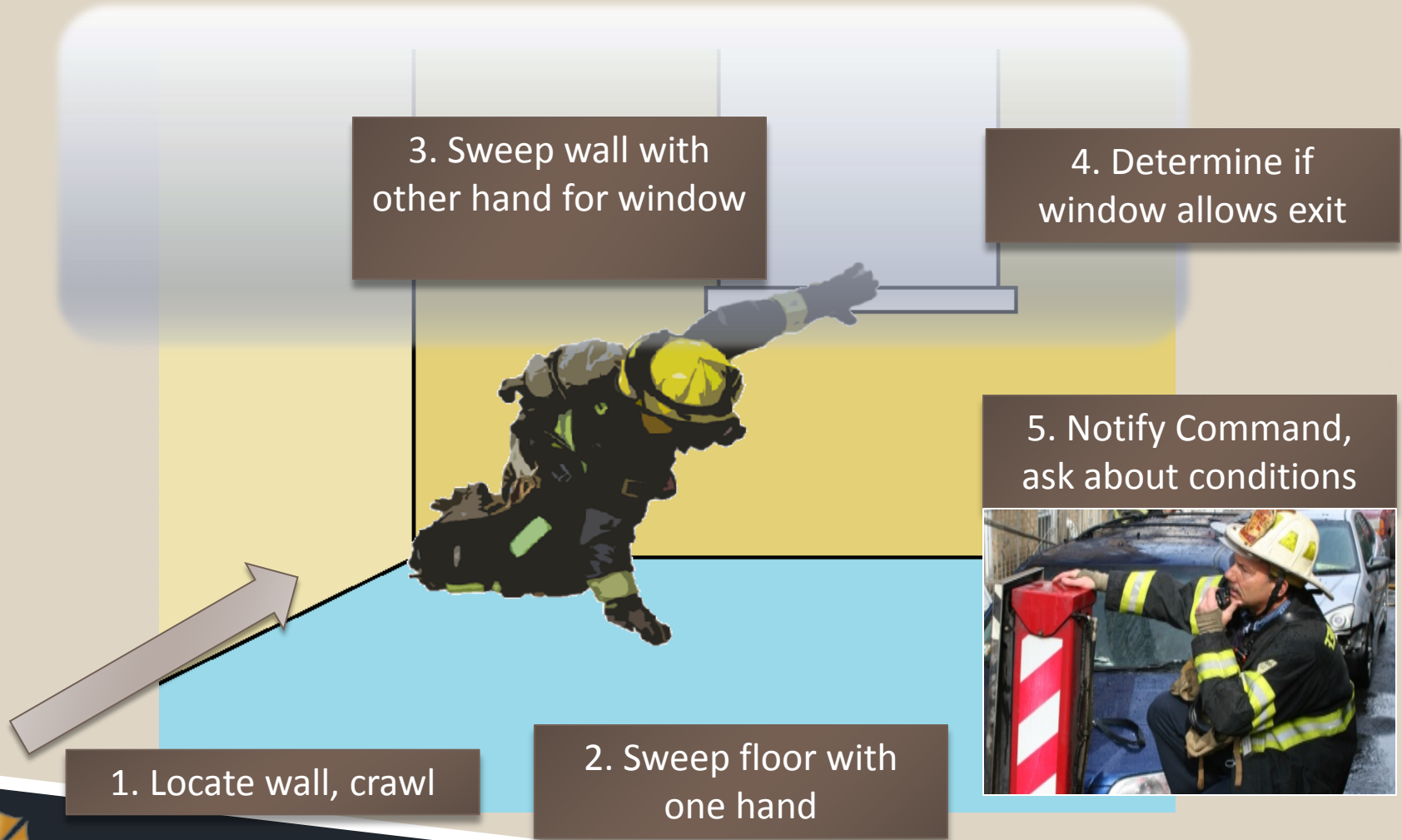


Duck walking



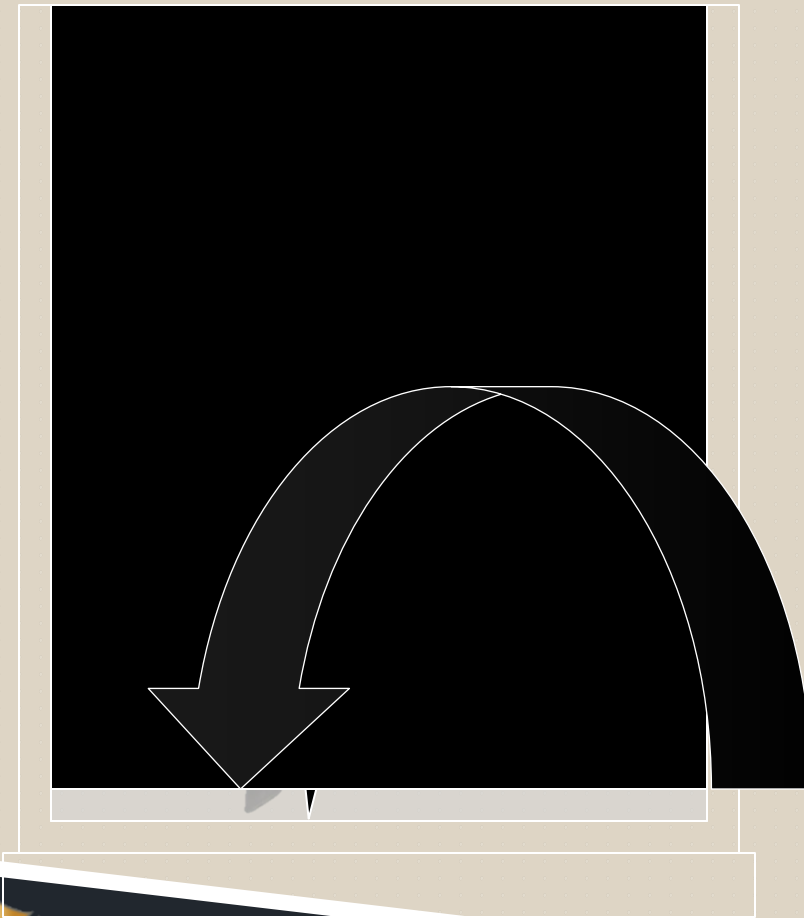
ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO SEARCH FOR AN EXIT.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

IF ON THE GROUND FLOOR, FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO EXIT A WINDOW.



1. Open window or break with tool
2. Clear shards
3. Climb through, feet first to ground



IF ON AN UPPER STORY, FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO EXIT A WINDOW.



Courtesy of Chris Mickal/District Chief, New Orleans (LA) FD Photo Unit

1. Find out if aerial or ground ladder is nearby



2. If not, report location and need for egress



3. Escape rope system if trained



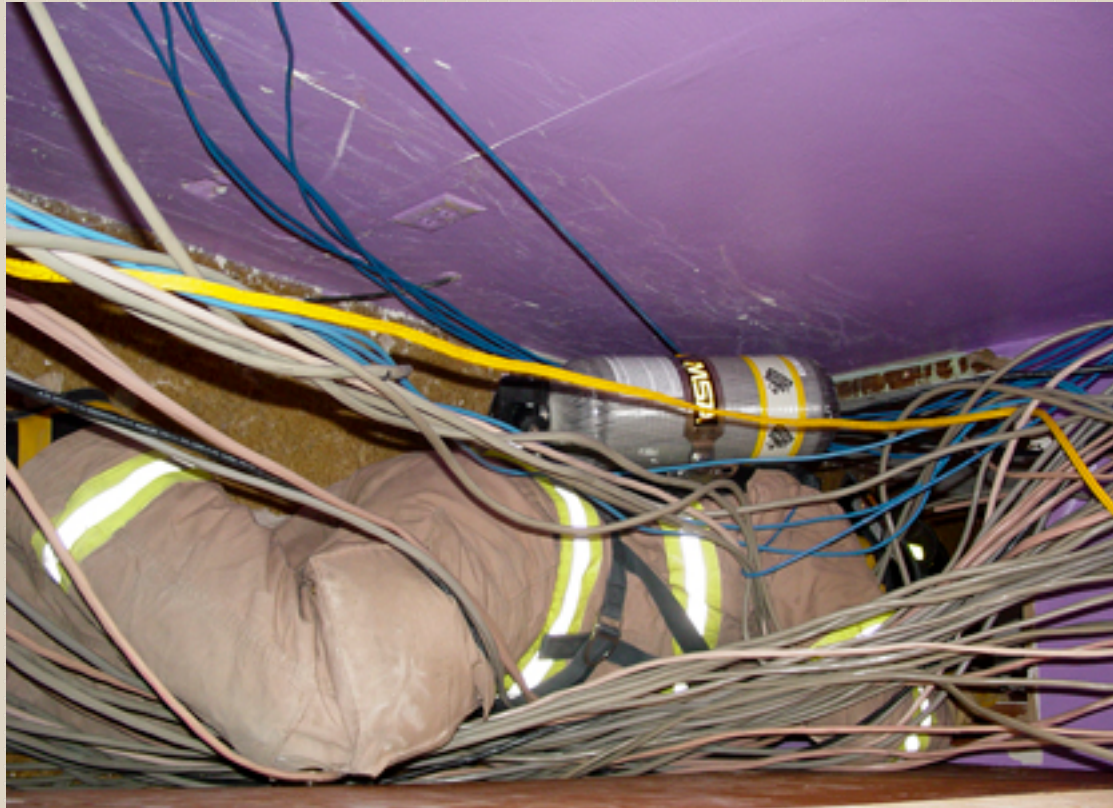
ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

BREACHING AN INTERIOR WALL MAY PROVIDE AN EXIT ROUTE, BUT SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

ALWAYS BROADCAST MAYDAY BEFORE
ATTEMPTING TO DISENTANGLE YOURSELF.



Courtesy of Iowa State Fire Training Bureau



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



A RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM OR CREW (RIT/RIC) IS REQUIRED BY NFPA® 1500 AND OSHA AT ANY HAZARD ZONE.



Two firefighters prepared for rescue

- Must be trained
- Full PPE
- More than one team may be assigned



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

CAUTION!

Do not underestimate the time and personnel required to rescue a downed firefighter.

Carrying one unconscious firefighter can require four rescuers, and fully removing the firefighter from the hazard zone can require up to twelve rescuers. This process can take as long as 20 minutes to complete.



MANDATORY EQUIPMENT FOR RIC/RIT IS DESCRIBED BY AWARE ACRONYM.



Air
Water
A
Radio
Extrication



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



RIC/RIT CARRY A VARIETY OF TOOLS WITH THEM.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

RIC/RIT FOLLOW THESE STEPS AFTER A MAYDAY TRANSMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

Establish radio contact

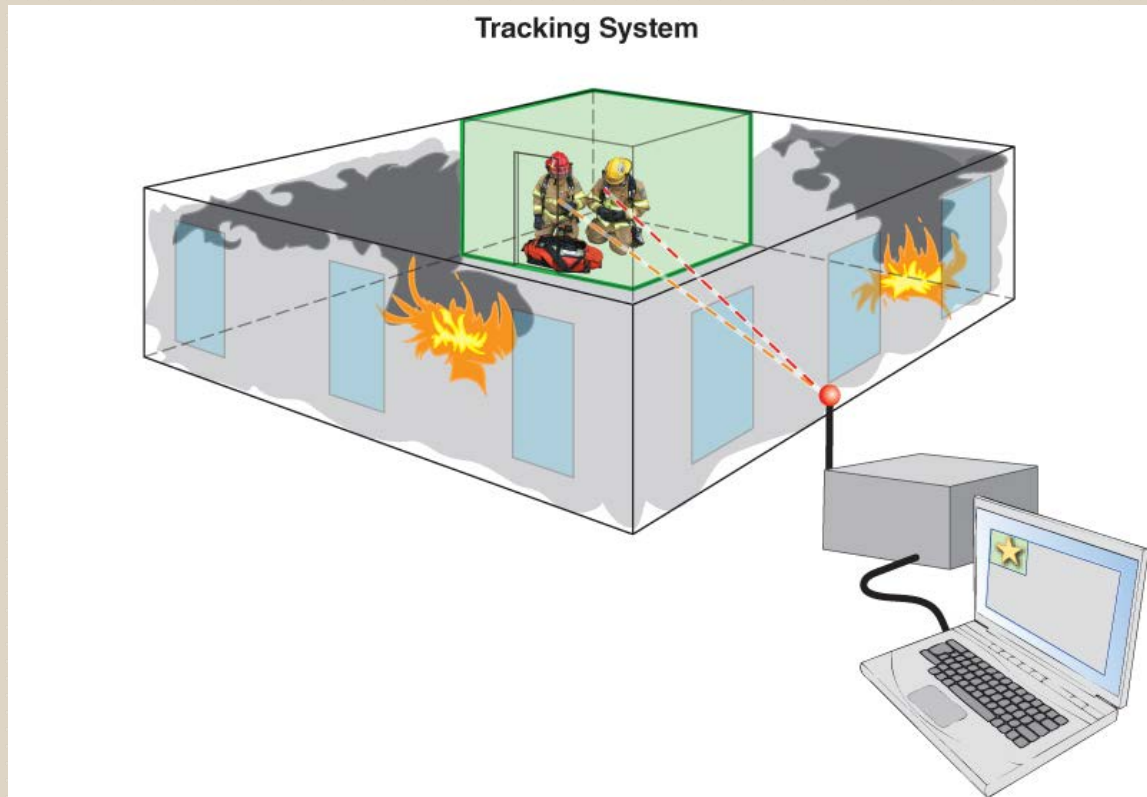
IC may order brief shutdown to listen

If unsuccessful, follow hoseline, last known location

Stop frequently to listen for sound of PASS device or calls for help

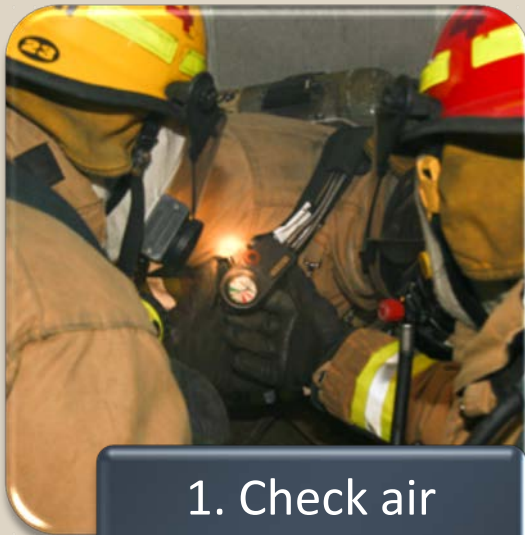


DIGITAL RADIO TRANSCEIVERS CAN HELP LOCATE DISORIENTED OR LOST FIREFIGHTERS.

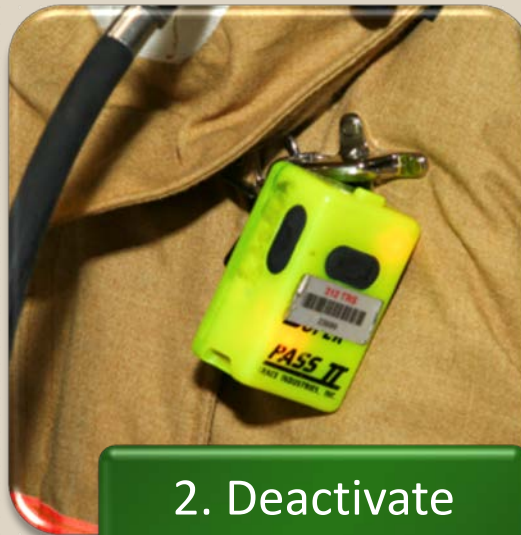


ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

AFTER LOCATING A DOWNED FIREFIGHTER, RIC/RIT TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS.



1. Check air
supply



2. Deactivate
PASS device



3. Confirm
identity



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

RIC/RIT THEN NOTIFIES COMMAND OF THE LOCATION AND STATUS OF DOWNED FIREFIGHTER.



4. Request assistance if necessary



5. Mitigate any hazards



6. Move to safe shelter if necessary



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

EXITING IDLH AREA USUALLY TAKES PRIORITY OVER STABILIZING INJURIES.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

MAKE SURE THAT SCBA IS FUNCTIONING OR
REMOVE FIREFIGHTER FROM HAZARDOUS
ATMOSPHERE.



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

WARNING!

Never remove your facepiece or compromise the proper operation of your SCBA to share your air supply— not even with another firefighter.



SUMMARY

Firefighters must know MAYDAY procedures, master self-rescue techniques, and be able to locate and rescue downed firefighters as part of a rapid intervention crew or team.

