

GERMAN TOWNSHIP
FIRE - RESCUE
PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS FAITHFULLY SERVING

8400 St. Wendel Road
Evansville, IN 47720
Voice 812-963-9077
Fax 812-963-5622
Email jimbuckman@aol.com
Internet www.germanfiredept.org

To: All Officers
From: Chief John M. Buckman III
Date: 06/07/2004
RE: Contract with Command Officers

This contract is to create a clear position for the staff and officers of this department and the consequences of actions when not in compliance with policy.

It is the policy of this department that at no time will we initiate interior fire attack operations in an **abandoned** building. If interior fire attack operations are initiated and it is determined later that the building is abandoned the IC is to immediately sound the evacuation signal and an exterior (defensive) operation shall begin.

The position of this department is that we will risk our life to save a life but we will never risk our life to save an abandoned building. It should be very clear to the duty officers / command personnel, **YOU** are responsible to control operating personnel. If you are on a mutual aid call and are asked to violate this policy **YOU** are to inform the command personnel that you and your crew must immediately return to German Township.

Abandoned buildings are defined as buildings that are not used for habitation regularly/consistently by human beings or for business purposes. If you receive reports that people were seen in the abandoned building immediately prior to the report of a fire the IC must evaluate the reliability and credibility of these reports before committing personnel to the interior. *The IC will mount an aggressive exterior / defensive operation on an abandoned building fire. After the fire has been knocked down a risk assessment of the structural stability shall be completed prior to allowing firefighters to proceed inside to complete overhaul.*

Temporarily empty buildings are defined as **vacant buildings**. Prior to initiating an interior fire attack in a **vacant building** a *risk assessment* shall be completed by the IC to determine the risk to firefighters is less than the likelihood of the building collapsing on firefighters and/or being demolished. *The risk assessment shall be completed prior to a strategy being selected and include an analysis of: risk to firefighters, size of fire, resources / staffing – apparatus / water supply, building construction.*

Your signature below indicates your complete understanding of the issue and your willingness to comply with the above stated policy.

Brother First. Duty Always