



LCES for Structural Firefighting

LCES is an integral mechanism for error control on wildland fires. LCES can be used for the structural fire incident as well. In fact, LCES can be modified to control errors on any type of emergency and non-emergency incident or event. For LCES to be truly effective they must be trained on at every opportunity. The figure below minimally details how LCES can be used.

- Lookouts are situated to notice the minor, major and cumulative changes of a specific area.
 - Ideally this person is not tactically involved.
 - The lookout must know the plan, fire location and behavior, building construction, and location of exits and have good communication skills.
 - The lookout must have a portable radio. A thermal imaging camera would be helpful.
 - Caution must be used if this person is engaged in collateral duties; i.e., Safety Officer.
- Effective communication is critical to ensure a safe and successful operation.
 - All personnel on scene have an obligation to voice their concerns. This foundation was built back at the station; therefore a level of trust already exists. This promotes concerns being raised when an error is developing or present.
 - 2-way communication is used. Active listening techniques as well as strong speaking skills are employed.
 - Overall incident and crew briefings are conducted.
 - Situational Awareness is elevated through strong communications.
- An escape route is a preplanned and understood route to reach a safe area.
 - The primary means of ingress will be controlled. Supportive firefighters (hose draggers) are employed to maintain and improve this avenue (move furniture, block open doors, illuminate with glow sticks, acquire SA of potential secondary means of egress, etc.
 - The Company Officer or designee shall be responsible for finding a secondary means of egress. This can be coordinated with the lookout, other crews and the Safety Officer.
- A safety zone is a location where the threatened firefighter can find adequate refuge from the fire and building conditions.
 - Escape route must lead to an area out of the IDLH atmosphere and collapse zone.
 - Must be known to all personnel.