



MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE

SEARCH & RESCUE MANUAL



Purpose

Every year, Miami Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) loses decades of knowledge and experience as firefighters retire. This manual is an attempt to stem the tide. If we could turn back the hands of time, we would most certainly reach out to those who came before us to capture some of their knowledge, just as we have reached out to many of you who have contributed so much to this manual — a manual that was written with a little bit of arguing, a lot of sweat and repetition, and no shortage of pride.

MDFR has always prided itself on aggressive interior search. So much so, we are one of only a few departments in the country that use ambulances (Rescues) for 'truck company' operations, outfitting all of our trucks not just with the essentials but with all the tools necessary to complete an aggressive search in a structure under attack by fire. Every single unit in Miami Dade County, from a 100' Platform to a Rescue can complete this fireground function. It should give each and every one of you a great deal of pride when members from other departments visit, open the compartments on our Rescues and comment on how well equipped they are. It must be very frustrating to arrive at a fire with a chance to make a difference only to be hindered by a lack of equipment or the ability to save a life. At MDFR we do not suffer from this shortcoming.

The purpose of this document is not to provide every answer to the challenges of Search & Rescue (S & R), but rather to provide the foundation and essential practices of MDFR. The manual will give you an idea of how to size up an occupancy for Search & Rescue. It will help you organize your crew for a search in building construction you recognize and in situations that are unique to Miami Dade County. It will give you tips and best practices that have been gathered throughout our department. We have also taken standards from throughout the country and consolidated them in one convenient location. This manual will help you find solutions to common problems and will not only assist you in preparing drills but will be a useful reference when mistakes are made. However, it will not make you a better firefighter if you don't practice. While reading it may be beneficial, you will only improve if you develop muscle memory through repetitive drilling and planning with your crew.

[Top](#)