



## Glossary of Terms

**360°** – Part of a quick size-up obtained from all four sides of a structure-to gain as much intelligence about the structure and conditions as possible.

**Acquired Structure** – A structure acquired by MDFR from a property owner for the purpose of conducting training.

**Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta** – The Alpha side is typically the side of the building which displays the address and/or appears to be the front of the structure; the Bravo, Charlie, and Delta sides are established clockwise around the building from the Alpha side.

**CAN report** – Conditions, Actions and Needs. The conditions of the immediate area assigned, the actions you are taking in the assigned area, and what other resources you are going to need to accomplish tactical objectives.

**Closed-Loop Communications** –

**Cockloft** - In a structure with a flat roof, it is the space between the topside of the ceiling and the underside of the roof.

**Commercial structure** – A structure designed or used for human habitation, or human occupancy for industrial, educational, assembly, professional or commercial purposes.

**Corridor** – A long passage in a building from which doors lead into rooms.

**Egress Point** – A means of exit or a way of leaving.

**Flow Path** – The movement of heat and smoke from the fire area (higher-pressure) to lower pressure areas accessible via doors and window openings.

**Fulcrum** – The point at which a bar, or something that is balancing, is supported or balances.

**Hardening** – The use of building materials and design to increase a building's fire resistance.

**High Rescue Profile** – Based on the size-up, firefighters believe the structure is occupied and that there may be victims trapped.

**Horizontal Ventilation** – Horizontal ventilation is the systematic removal of heat, smoke, and fire gases from a structure usually through opening or breaking doors and windows.

**IDLH Environment** – Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) is a term used to describe hazards in which an acute exposure to the hazard poses a severe risk of immediate health damage, injury, or death.

**Ingress Point** – The entry point.

**Low Rescue Profile** – Based on the size-up, firefighters believe the structure is unoccupied.

[Top](#)



# **MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE**

## **SEARCH & RESCUE MANUAL**



**Married Set of Irons** – A Halligan bar and a flathead axe joined (and partially interlocked, head-to-toe) to form what is known as a married set.

**On-Deck Crew** – The crew assigned to a staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone. This crew will be up next to do an assigned task.

**Oriented Firefighter** – Oriented person's whose job is to guide the searching firefighters back to them and safely out of the structure.

**Overhaul** – The process of searching for hidden fire extension on a fire scene.

**PAR** – Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) a term used to confirm that all personnel assigned to a group, division, unit or incident have been identified and accounted for.

**Primary Search** – A rapid thorough search of a structure for victims to confirm and/or find the location of the fire; performed either before or during fire suppression operations. This search is generally completed before the fire is under control.

**Priority Message** – A radio message to the IC that contains critical information.

**Rescue Profile** – A quick and easy way to determine potential or known life hazards and any subsequent tactics that are chosen, particularly if they are going to change the search crew's immediate actions on the fireground. Based on the crew's size-up, the rescue profile may be low, high, or urgent.

**RIC Bag** – Provides the company with immediate access to necessary tools to free the trapped firefighter as well as provide a secondary source of air for the firefighter.

**Secondary Search** – A thorough search of the area conducted after the fire is under control. When possible, should be accomplished by a crew different from that which completed the Primary Search.

**Self-Rescue** – When a firefighter uses specific techniques to get out of an emergency such as when they are trapped or entangled.

**Shelter in Place** – Finding a safe location inside the structure and staying there until conditions improve or another crew can locate and help you evacuate.

**Squatter** – A person who settles in or occupies a piece of property with no legal claim to the property. A squatter lives on a property to which they have no title, right, or lease.

**Structural Integrity** – The ability of a structure to withstand its intended loading without failing due to fracture, deformation, or fatigue.

**Tag Line** – A rope attached to a lifted load for purposes of stabilizing and controlling load spinning.

**TIC** – Thermal Imaging Camera. A TIC is a device that detects infrared energy, and then displays it on a color prism scale.

[Top](#)



# **MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE**

## **SEARCH & RESCUE MANUAL**



**TIC Directed Search** – A search led by a Thermal Imaging Camera.

**Truck Company** – Crew that is responsible for forcible entry, search, ventilation and possibly a whole lot more.

**Urgent Rescue Profile** – Firefighters have first-hand knowledge that the structure is occupied and that there are victims trapped.

**VEIS** – Vent, enter, isolate, and search. A procedure whereby the search crew moves directly to a window or door of a room from the exterior and enters, isolates that room from the fire, and performs a search of that area.

**Ventilation** – The controlled removal of smoke, heat, and gases and replacement with fresh air.

**Working End** – The end of a rope that you will manipulate the most to actively tie a knot.

[Top](#)