

## Introduction

1. This SOP provides guidance for the assessment of properties being impacted immediately by fire. Immediate Street Assessments are undertaken reactively during firefighting operations as crews move through to control and extinguish the fire.
2. When sector commanders and crew leaders are evaluating what structures are deemed lost and what structures are deemed saveable, when tasking resources accordingly, their decisions should be guided by the State Strategic Control priorities, located within [Directive 3.5 Bushfire](#) and the [State Hazard Plan - Fire](#).

## Procedures

3. **Structural Survivability Ratings.** Structures are to be rated as to the likelihood of their survivability in accordance with the following ratings. Survivability ratings are designed to guide the prioritisation of resource commitment<sup>1</sup>.






RATING	DEFINITION	PRIORITY
<b>Saveable</b>	Resources will be committed to extinguish existing fires within this structure and further defend it.	<b>1</b>
<b>Marginal</b>	The level of structural fire involvement is probably beyond the capacity of the TF. <i>Resources will only be committed to extinguish existing fires within this structure and further defend it, if they are available.</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>Lost</b>	No attempt to extinguish this structure will be attempted other than to reduce its capacity to act as a fuel source that will further spread the fire.	<b>3</b>

3. **Assessment Variables.** Structural survivability must be assessed with clear regard for local conditions. The most significant variables are as follow:

VARIABLE	NOTES
<b>Local Wind Conditions</b>	Wind speed and direction will dictate which structures are immediately under threat, and which structures are next under threat. Threat assessment will influence the prioritisation of all defensive task decisions.
<b>Fire Danger Rating</b>	FDR relate to the difficulty of suppression, thereby reducing the likely survivability of structures.
<b>Involvement of Residents</b>	Assistance provided by residents is a combat multiplier. Where residents have chosen to stay and protect their properties, the committal of resources to otherwise marginal structures may be deemed worthwhile.

<sup>1</sup> A structure rated 'Lost' may have resources committed to its defence if resources are available due to other structures not rating a higher priority.

4. **Assessing Structural Survivability.** If a street is already involved in fire there may be structures fully involved, partially involved, internally involved and untouched. The following information is provided to guide SC/CL's in the prioritisation of resource committed to structural defence tasks, where they are faced with multiple structures being impacted at once.

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT		SURVIVABILITY RATING - PRIORITY	NOTES
<b>No Fire Involvement</b>		<b>SAVEABLE –</b> (Priority will depend upon whether the structure is currently under threat)	These structures are deemed as being safe. Resources will be committed if/when the property is under threat.
<b>External Roof Involvement</b> (Fire is surface-based and has not entered the roof space)		<b>SAVEABLE –</b> PRIORITY 1	These structures are deemed as being able to be saved and protected. Resources will be committed immediately.
<b>Full Roof Involvement</b> (Fire has entered the roof space)		<b>MARGINAL –</b> PRIORITY 2	Firefighters will experience significant difficulty in saving these structures and resources will only be committed after more sound options are defended.
<b>Internal Involvement</b>		<b>LOST –</b> PRIORITY 3	Fires within structures are most likely to quickly escalate beyond the opportunity to save and protect them. Resources will only be committed if the structure poses a threat to further spread of the fire or if there are no other structures requiring attention. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fully Involved</b>		<b>LOST –</b> PRIORITY 3	These structures are deemed as having passed beyond the opportunity to save and protect. Resources will only be committed if the structure poses a threat to further spread of the fire or if there are no other structures requiring attention.

<sup>2</sup> In all likelihood the intense fire conditions and high winds occurring at FDR >Severe will quickly escalate even a single room involvement. This is particularly the case where windows are broken.

5. **Withdrawing from Operations.** There are no simple rules regarding a decision to abandon structure protection efforts. The following factors are provided as indicators of increasing risk.

<b>Safety of responders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety of responders is a primary priority when undertaking assessments, if the risk is too high for personnel then personnel should withdraw from operations and the strategy reassessed.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Behaviour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fire activity or intensity is providing unsafe conditions for crews.</li> <li>Spot fires are igniting around the structure faster than they can be extinguished</li> </ul>
<b>Water Supply</b>	The water supply is insufficient to continue firefighting.

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<b>Escape Route</b>	If you remain at the structure your escape route could be compromised.
<b>Structural Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke is coming out from under the eaves</li> <li>• Interior rooms are involved and windows are broken, the wind is unfavourable and other structures are threatened and involved</li> </ul>

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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

AUTHOR	POSITION	VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION of CHANGE
A.J. Hinton	OIO	1.0	Jul 10	<p>New SOP created. New sections created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(All)</li> </ul> <p><b>Source documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determining Structural Triage (Arnol)</li> <li>Triage for Fireground (Arnol)</li> <li>Rural Urban Interface Firefighting Techniques (Arnol)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>All listed SOP/SAP, now retired.</i></b></p>
D. Childs	Doctrine	1.1	Sep 12	Content reviewed for currency – no change
S. Bignell	Doctrine	1.2	Nov 13	Change Strike Team to Task Force as per AIIMS definitions
		1.3	Aug 17	Inclusion of State Strategic Priorities
		2.0	Sept 18	Major review of document

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