

# CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP



## Wildland Urban Interface Operating Principles

1. The first priority for all risk-decisions is human survival, both of firefighters and the public.
2. Incident containment strategies specifically address and integrate protection of defensible improved property and wildland values.
3. Direct protection of improved property is undertaken when it is safe to do so, when there are sufficient time and appropriate resources available, and when the action directly contributes to achieving overall incident objectives.
4. The firefighter's decision to accept direction to engage in structure defense action is based on the determination that the property is defensible and the risk to firefighters can be safely mitigated under the current or potential fire conditions.
5. A decision to delay or withdraw from structure defense operations is the appropriate course of action when made in consideration of firefighter safety, current or potential fire behavior, or defensibility of the structure or groups of structures.
6. Firefighters at all levels are responsible to make risk-decisions appropriate to their individual knowledge, experience, training, and situational awareness.
7. Every firefighter is responsible to be aware of the factors that affect their judgment and the decision-making process, including: a realistic perception of their own knowledge, skills, and abilities, the presence of life threat or structures, fire behavior, availability of resources, social / political pressures, mission focus, and personal distractions such as home, work, health, and fatigue.
8. An individual's ability to assimilate all available factors affecting situational awareness is limited in a dynamic wildland urban interface fire environment. Every firefighter is responsible to understand and recognize these limitations, and to apply their experience, training and personal judgment to observe, orient, decide, and act in preparation for the "worst case".#
9. It is the responsibility of *every* firefighter to participate in the flow of information with supervisors, subordinates, and peers. Clear and concise communication is essential to overcome limitations in situational awareness.#