

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: 
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Subject: **Operations**
Specific Subject: **7000.001 Fire Ground Factors**

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POLICY:

The Incident Commander (IC) must consider fire ground factors in the evaluation of tactical situations.

PROCEDURE:

The IC must identify the critical fire ground factors that are significant in each tactical situation --this list of factors offers a framework for that process.

- *Visual Factors*- These factors include those obvious to visual observation and those absorbed subconsciously. This visual information is categorized as the type that can normally be gained by actually looking at a tactical situation from the outside. This form of intelligence involves the perceptive capability of the IC.
- *Reconnaissance Factors*- These factors include information that is not visually available to the IC from a position on the outside of a tactical situation and must be gained by actually sending someone to check-out, go-see, look-up, research, advise, call, go-find, etc. This generally involves the IC making a specific assignment and then receiving an information- oriented report.
- *Pre/Planning and Familiarity Factors*- These factors include the *intelligence* that is gained from formal pre-fire planning and general informal familiarization activities. Such intelligence increases the information initially available to the IC from the OUTSIDE of a tactical situation. This information provides the IC with intelligence that would otherwise have to come from a Reconnaissance report or might not be available.