



Timeless Tactical Truths

By Chief Alan Brunacini from Fire Command

If you have lots of ideas, you need lots of companies.

Don't stand too close to the guys that are always bandaged up.

You can't save anyone when you are the victim.

Effective command is made up of equal parts of passion and patience – the trick is the where and when of each.

Unless the walls are falling, the FGC shouldn't yell or run –neither reflects cleverness or composure.

Burning up all of your exposures at once is tacky.

The treatment for screw ups: education, training, reflection, and getting to do it again.

Beware of the chief who says "Don't do anything until I get there."

Avoid the folks who say regular safety procedures take too long during difficult times (when you really need them).

If you think training is expensive, check out the cost of ignorance.

Forget the baloney about "holding the fire" – you either put it out or it burns past you.

When the pipe goes up, the building comes down.

When you lose your head, the next thing is your ass.

If a building burns, don't take it personally (you didn't make the world combustible).

Things that lead up to accidents happen slowly - the accidents happen fast.

Be careful of shutting down and unhooking anything that is set up and operating okay.

The FGC should be the first person who thinks the fire is burning and the last to believe it is out.

Most of the time on the fire ground, the first five minutes are worth the next five hours.

When someone screws up, ask the standard question, "Who taught him how to do it?"

Basic fire frequency axiom: the farther you are from the last fire, the closer you are to the next one.

The FGC must always be able to separate what is a hope from what is a plan.

The FGC must always have a "string" on his troops – be careful of any situations where you can't get the insiders out quickly and account for them.

